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The final farewell



JEFF MITCHELL / APP/GETTY IMAGES

Caroline Davies



Unsurpassed pomp and public spectacle give way to intimacy as Queen Elizabeth's family lay her to rest

After the majestic funeral pomp and military spectacle, unsurpassed in the nation's living memory and watched across the world, the final farewell to Queen Elizabeth II would belong only to her family. Night had fallen as she was laid to rest next to the Duke of Edinburgh in the George VI Memorial chapel, Windsor, in private and away from cameras. With only her family present, it was a wholly intimate ceremony, one for a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother who also

was a Queen. The contrast with the earlier grandeur of Britain's official goodbye, with its pipers, buglers, and muffled bells; its kings, queens, prime ministers and presidents in the gothic splendour of Westminster Abbey, could not have been more marked. Or with the ritual and symbolism, burnished over centuries, of the committal service at St George's chapel, Windsor Castle. There, in the town she called home, the nation's longest-reigning monarch was finally divested of her earthly sovereign's duty when the Imperial

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Funeral of
Queen Elizabeth II



After the public spectacle, the family reclaim Queen's burial for their own

Continued from page 1

State Crown, the orb and sceptre - her instruments of state - were removed from her coffin and placed on the High Altar.

Her most senior official, the lord chamberlain, broke his wand of office, signifying the end of his service to her. The coffin gently sank through the quire floor into the royal vault beneath.

The chapel filled with a piper's lament, gradually ebbing into silence as he walked slowly away. Then came a jolting, full-throated God Save the King.

In that moment, as one reign had slowly faded, a new one had sprung.

It was the last the public would see of its Queen, with her family finally reclaiming her burial for

their own. It marked the end of a day that seamlessly wove the historic with the intimate - with, perhaps, the most personal of touches being the presence of Queen Elizabeth II's two great-grandchildren.

The image of the small figures of Prince George, nine, and Princess Charlotte, seven, at the centre of this immense state occasion, walking through Westminster Abbey hand-in-hand with their parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, behind the coffin, was potent.

For the two, now second and third in line to the throne, this must have been a daunting and extraordinary introduction to official royal life, walking among 18 royals, including the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, through

▼ *The Queen's coffin being taken down The Mall towards Buckingham Palace after her funeral service*

PHOTOGRAPH: VADIM GHIRDA/AP



▲ *King Charles during the state funeral service for his mother, the late Queen Elizabeth, at Westminster Abbey yesterday* PHOTOGRAPH: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

'The grief of this day arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us'

Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury

the hushed sea of black morning dress and hats.

Earlier, the coffin had made its short journey from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey on the Victorian state gun carriage, pulled by 142 naval ratings, to the wail and beat of 200 pipers and drummers.

The King led the procession of royals behind it. In Royal Navy No 1 uniform, freighted with medals, and neck orders and sashes, his sword in place, Charles walked with his sister, his brothers, his sons, the Queen's grandson Peter Phillips, the nephew the Earl of Snowdon, cousin the Duke of Gloucester and Princess Anne's husband Sir Tim Lawrence. Prince William was in uniform, Prince Harry was not. He was in morning dress.

Inside, the congregation had taken its seats as the tenor bell at the abbey tolled for 96 minutes, one for each year of her life.

Around 2,000 had been invited - including world leaders, ambassadors, politicians and foreign royals - to this service of unprecedented scale in the abbey's 1,000 year history, and the first monarch's funeral here in 262 years.

The Queen's six surviving former prime ministers, and their spouses, had walked to their seats in date order - Sir John Major, Sir Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, David Cameron, Theresa May and, finally, Boris Johnson. Her 15th prime minister, Liz Truss, appointed two days before her death, read a lesson, as did Lady Scotland, secretary general of the Commonwealth.

Strict protocol dictated that the US president Joe Biden sat in the area reserved for heads of state, some 14 rows back on the south transept, with realm governors general and Commonwealth countries taking precedence in front.

The US president was behind Poland, and in front of the Czech Republic. Across the aisle was the Republic of Korea.

Overseas VIPs had earlier disgorged from coaches, shuttled en-masse to the abbey from their muster point at the Royal Chelsea hospital to avoid road congestion. Only Biden's "the Beast" armoured car was allowed special direct abbey access.

This was the stage on which so many of the Queen's most auspicious moments had played. She took her coronation oath, and made her wedding vows, on the same altar before which her coffin now lay.

Myrtle, grown from a sprig from her wedding bouquet, was arranged now in her wreath, along with flowers in hues of gold, pink

and deep burgundy to reflect the colours of the royal standard and grown in royal gardens. A handwritten card, tucked among them, read simply: "In loving and devoted memory. Charles R".

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, gave the sermon. "People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer," he said. "But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are forgotten.

"The grief of this day - felt not only by the late Queen's family but all round the nation, Commonwealth and world - arises from her abundant life and loving service, now gone from us."

As the Last Post performed by state trumpeters faded, a two-minute silence began. The skies were silent - with no planes taking off from Heathrow. Then came the Reveille and the national anthem.

As the Queen's piper, Paul Burns, played the lament, "Sleep, Dearie, Sleep", the King, Queen Consort, the Prince and Princess of Wales, their children and the other royals followed the coffin out.

The monumental military procession that then escorted her



'Breaking of the wand'
The last act of service

On a day laden with ceremony and symbolism, one of the stranger moments of the funeral was a ceremony known as the "breaking of the wand", an event that had not taken place since her father, King George VI, was buried in 1952, and which had never been widely seen by the public before.

The "wand" at the royal funeral has nothing to do with the Arthurian legend of Merlin, but is a symbol of the lord chamberlain, Lord Andrew Parker, and is known as the "wand of office".

This thin white staff has its origins in a tool that was used by the lord chamberlain to admonish people in the monarch's court by tapping them if they were too rowdy or disrespectful. The last act of the service at the Queen's committal involved the wand being broken, and then placed on the coffin before it was lowered into the royal vault.

Also known as the "breaking of the stick", the action marks the end of the lord chamberlain's service to the monarch. King Charles will duly appoint one of his own, who will receive a new wand.

The lord chamberlain is the most senior position in the royal household. He is responsible for organising ceremonial activities such as weddings, funerals and state visits. **Martin Belam**

coffin stretched past London's landmarks to Wellington Arch in a wide rich ribbon of the gold, scarlet, blue and black of ceremonial uniforms; its length so long that as its front reached Whitehall, its rear still stretched up Victoria Street. Some 4,000 military personnel from the UK and the Commonwealth were involved.

Westminster Abbey's bell tolled fully muffled, as is traditional after the funeral of a monarch. Minute guns fired from Hyde Park, and Big Ben tolled as the cortege wound its way through Parliament Square, Whitehall, Horse Guards, the Mall.

The great funeral marches of Mendelssohn and Beethoven were played along the route. As it passed Buckingham palace, the Queen's staff lined up outside, bowed and curtsied in one last act of obeisance.

At Wellington Arch, a royal salute and the national anthem sent her on her way - home to Windsor in the state hearse. It arrived in the town with its bonnet strewn with flowers thrown from the crowds that lined the 23-mile route.

In Windsor, they were 10 deep in the street, many only able to capture its passing by holding camera phones aloft. The Castle's Sebastopol and Curfew Tower bells tolled.

Her two corgis, Muick and Sandy, were brought into the castle's quadrangle for the coffin's arrival. Her fell pony, Emma, stood between the thousands of floral tributes on the grass approach to the castle.

Beneath the silken banners of the Garter knights in St George's chapel, where just 17 months ago she had sat alone at Prince Philip's funeral, her coffin was borne into the chapel, past a guard of honour and under the watchful eye of the Military Knights of Windsor.

This was a more intimate and personal service, with many of her past and present staff invited, and prayers by ministers from Sandringham, Windsor, and Craithie Kirk, churches which she was most familiar.

There was one last public act for the King, her son, to undertake. As the final hymn "Christ is Made the Sure Foundation" ended, Charles walked slowly to the coffin and placed the Queen's company camp colour upon it.

The lord chamberlain's broken wand of office was placed alongside. Both would be buried with the coffin, which was then gradually lowered as the Dean of Windsor recited Psalm 103.

The garter king of arms read aloud the late Queen's style and titles. The piper piped a lament.

A prayer was said for the new King, and the national anthem sung. It was the end.

At 7.30pm, the Queen was being laid to rest in the George VI Memorial chapel, alongside Philip, "her strength and stay" throughout almost all of her 70 years reign, and near to her mother, Queen Elizabeth, father King George VI, and the ashes of her sister Princess Margaret

"Us Four" as George VI would refer to his family, were together once more.



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

Grief and duty

How Charles III put a stately public face on personal sorrow

Robert Booth

The King appeared to blink back tears as he gazed toward his mother's coffin and the sound of a piper's traditional lament, Sleep, Dearie, Sleep, faded to silence inside Westminster Abbey.

At times during the hour-long state funeral he closed his eyes or appeared lost in thought. But it was the sound of the Queen's own piper, Warrant Officer Paul Burns, who used to play for her at Balmoral, that seemed to finally come close to overwhelming Charles III.

As the bagpipes played, his mother's casket rested before him adorned with the imperial state crown and a wreath of flowers, leaves and herbs, some from his own gardens at Highgrove and Clarence House. It featured his handwritten message: "With loving and devoted memory, Charles R."

Yesterday's funeral, committal and burial marked the end of 11 intense days for the 73-year-old sovereign, packed with public engagements, 1,900 miles of travel and only one day out of the eye of the cameras. The purpose: to cement his status as the new sovereign of all four nations. But inside he has been grieving. On Thursday he retreated to Highgrove, where he has built a sanctuary from local stone, timber and clay bricks. It has been reported that he prayed inside.

Over the last week he has been determined to describe the Queen as a model of public service. She was "a pattern to all princes living", he said, quoting Shakespeare, and he told parliament he is "resolved faithfully to follow" her "example of selfless duty". But he has also described his "great personal sorrow", "a profound sense of grief" and "irreparable loss".

Finally yesterday he was able to lay his "darling Mama" to rest. Frequently his features looked close to liquefying into grief.



▲ King Charles and William, Prince of Wales, salute during the funeral

This was a long day. The King set out for Westminster Hall at 10.30am and wasn't due to bury his mother alongside his father until a private service starting at 7.30pm.

Processing with the coffin from Westminster Hall to the abbey, Charles, marched behind the state gun carriage. It was used for the funerals of the three monarchs who preceded Elizabeth II as well as Winston Churchill and the King's beloved great-uncle, Lord Louis Mountbatten. The King was flanked by his siblings: the Princess Royal, a half step behind him, the Duke of York, clearly emotional, and the Earl of Wessex.

Directly behind him marched his heir, the Prince of Wales, alongside his second son, the Duke of Sussex, and Peter Phillips, son of the Princess Royal and the Queen's oldest grandchild.

Towards the end of the service, after the archbishop of Canterbury had commended the Queen's soul "to the mercy of God", the King stood eyes closed in contemplation as a new anthem by the Scottish composer Sir James MacMillan was played with words from Romans 8, which asks: "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?"

After the funeral, the same core group walked behind the coffin to Wellington Arch with Big Ben sounding on the minute before proceeding by car to Windsor Castle for the committal service and burial.

Inside St George's chapel, Charles listened as the dean of Windsor, David Conner, described how "in the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, her calm and dignified presence has given us confidence to face the future". He took the Queen's Company camp colour of the Grenadier Guards and placed it on her coffin to be buried with her before the casket was slowly lowered into the Royal Vault.

"Go forth upon thy journey from this world, O Christian soul," said Conner, reading from psalm 103. The Queen's piper played once more and walked slowly away from the chapel, the music fading before Charles III was proclaimed as "the most high, most mighty, most excellent monarch".

As he left the chapel with Camilla, Queen Consort, something seemed to lift. The King smiled and laughed a little as he exchanged words with the archbishop of Canterbury. All that was left was a private burial service with the Queen's closest family in attendance.



Young royals George and Charlotte take to world stage

Robert Booth

Prince George, nine, and Princess Charlotte, seven, were the youngest mourners following the Queen's coffin as they marched through a nave packed with world leaders in an expression of continuity of the monarchy.

The Queen's great-grandson, who became second in line to the throne after her death on 8 September, wore a dark blue suit and black tie as he walked

alongside his father, the Prince of Wales, King Charles III's heir. Alongside him walked his younger sister in a black dress and wide-brimmed hat, and her mother, the Princess of Wales.

Charlotte's presence at Westminster Abbey was a reminder of how the Queen's reign ended hundreds of years of male primogeniture. From 2013, a younger son could no longer displace an elder daughter in the line of succession, meaning that Charlotte is third in line to the throne and her younger brother, Louis, four, who was not at the funeral, is fourth.

The siblings started a new school in Berkshire on the day the nation's longest-serving monarch died. Yesterday they joined the core royal party, behind the King and Queen Consort, as the Queen's body was borne into the abbey.

The children's role in the ceremony only emerged on Sunday night and is likely to have been the subject of considerable deliberation. At previous state funerals for monarchs,

grandchildren, let alone great-grandchildren, have not typically played a formal role. That change is in part a consequence of the Queen's 70-year reign and long life but also as part of the monarchy's desire to project stability to the UK and Commonwealth.

Two days after the Queen's death, Prince William reportedly told a member of the public on a walkabout at Windsor that "they were trying to keep some sense of continuity for them at school and keep things as normal as possible". On Sunday it was reported that George and Charlotte's presence had been suggested by "senior palace advisers", with an unnamed official saying George's presence would be desirable "if only to reassure the nation of the order of succession".

As they entered the abbey, George glanced around him at the assembled dignitaries, while Charlotte peered out from beneath her hat's brim, her mother placing a hand on her shoulder.

They were seated alongside their parents in the front row facing



the coffin. Charlotte's legs swung beneath her, still too short to reach the abbey's black and white chequered floor.

A couple of seats along, their great uncle and aunt, the Earl and Countess of Wessex, wiped their eyes. Farther along sat the King, their grandfather, face sombre, mouth downturned, his left

▲ *Prince George and Princess Charlotte sit with their parents at the committal service in St George's chapel*

PHOTOGRAPH: VICTORIA JONES/PA

▼ *The Princess of Wales travels by car with her children from Westminster Abbey to Windsor Castle*

PHOTOGRAPH: TOM JENKINS/ THE GUARDIAN



hand gripping the handle of his ceremonial sword as he silently read the order of service.

The children's appearance came amid a narrowing of the royal family's focus on figures at the top of the direct line of succession, overseen by the King. That was exemplified when the Queen, Charles, William and George were among a slimmed-down cast that had taken to the Buckingham Palace balcony for the platinum jubilee celebrations in May without the Duke of York, the Duke of Sussex or the Earl of Wessex.

At the end of the state funeral, the children stood immaculately as the congregation sang God Save the King. George held his arms by his sides and Charlotte clasped her hands in front of her.

They travelled from Westminster to Windsor by car as part of the procession with the Queen's hearse. With them were Camilla, the Queen Consort and their step-grandmother, and Catherine, their mother, before the service of committal at St George's chapel at Windsor Castle.

Explained

What was on the Queen's coffin

5



1 Handwritten note

Nestled among the flowers of the Queen's funeral wreath was a handwritten card by her son King Charles III that read: "In loving and devoted memory, Charles R."

2 Flowers

At King Charles III's request, the wreath on top of the Queen's coffin contained flowers and foliage from the royal properties of Buckingham Palace and Clarence House in London and Highgrove House in Gloucestershire. Also at the King's request, the wreath was sustainable, and affixed in a nest of English moss and oak branches.

The wreath contained myrtle, the ancient symbol of a happy marriage, cut from a plant that was grown from a sprig of myrtle in the Queen's wedding bouquet in 1947. It also featured rosemary as a symbol of remembrance and English oak, a national symbol of strength, in a nod to the Queen's constancy and steadfast duty. Other foliage included pelargoniums, garden roses, autumnal hydrangeas, sedums, dahlias and scabious.

3 Imperial state crown

The late Queen's sanctified body is represented by the crown, orb and sceptre. The crown - representing the sovereign's power - has 2,868 diamonds, 269 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and four rubies. It contains some of the crown jewels' most precious gems, including the Black Prince's ruby, the Stuart sapphire, and the Cullinan II diamond.

St Edward's sapphire, set in the centre of the topmost cross, is said to have been worn in a ring by St Edward the Confessor and discovered in his tomb in 1163. The crown has been damaged previously - during the transportation of the body of George V following his death, the diamond-encrusted globe that tops

the crown, along with the cross and sapphire it supports, snapped off and rolled into a gutter.

The Queen wore the crown when she left Westminster Abbey after her coronation in 1953. The monarch wears the crown for state occasions, including the state opening of parliament.

4 The orb

The golden jewelled ball created, like the sceptre, in 1661, is topped by a gem-encrusted cross. It is meant to remind the monarch that their power is derived from God.

5 The sceptre

The sceptre was created for the coronation of King Charles II, and has been used to represent the crown's power and governance in every coronation since 1661. In 1910, the Cullinan I diamond was added to the sceptre. Weighing 532.2 carats, it is the largest colourless cut diamond in the world and was cut from the magnificent Cullinan diamond, which was discovered in South Africa in 1905 and is still the largest uncut diamond ever found.

6 Royal standard flag

The royal standard represents the sovereign and the United Kingdom. The modern incarnation of the flag has four quarters: England (three lions passant) in the first and fourth quarters, Scotland (a lion rampant) in the second quarter and Ireland (a harp) in the third quarter. In Scotland a different version of the royal standard is used, with Scottish arms in the first and fourth quarters and English arms in the second.

Wales is not represented, as its special position as a principality was recognised by the creation of the Prince of Wales long before the incorporation of the quarterings for Scotland and Ireland in the royal arms.

Alexandra Topping



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II



The kingdom to come Did we bury more than a much-loved matriarch?

Jonathan Freedland



In death, as in life, all eyes were on her. Inside the same abbey where she was crowned nearly seven decades ago, there was, this time, not a hesitant young woman dressed to dazzle but a small coffin. Still, in 2022 as in 1953, it was impossible to look away. In a sea of dark suits, mostly pale faces and much grey hair, it was the coffin that provided the colour and chief spectacle: the reds and yellows of the royal standard, the polished gold of the orb and sceptre and, resting on a purple cushion, the sparkling diamonds and pristine sapphire of the crown.

For all the pomp and finery that preceded that funeral service, and which would follow it, both through London and later in Windsor – the brocaded uniforms and muffled drums, the feathered hats and musical laments – it was that draped box that commanded

the attention. Its emergence from Westminster Hall shortly after 10.30am, shouldered by men who had sworn an oath to defend the Queen in life, like the sight of the coffin placed on a gun carriage, pulled not by horses but by a column of naval ratings, touched some deep corner of the collective memory. There was something ancient, even elemental to it: young men bearing the body of their fallen queen.

The day's rites reminded us of things we already knew, but which we forget or prefer not to talk about – things about both her and this country. Contemporary Britain understands itself to be largely secular or, if not that, then avowedly multifaith. And yet the service in the abbey was robustly Christian. The hymns, the readings, the eulogy – all stressed the late monarch's abiding faith in Jesus Christ. No inclusive generalities, no ecumenical offerings from leaders of other creeds: this was a Christian funeral for a committed Christian. "Go forth, O Christian soul," they

bade her. Charles once wanted to be known as Defender of Faith – in general – but yesterday confirmed that there is to be no shifting on that point. Defender of *the* Faith she was, and Defender of *the* Faith he will be.

There were reminders too of how much has changed since the coronation and of how much has stayed the same. The congregation of 1953 would scarcely have imagined that the Abbey would one day listen to devotions offered by two women of colour, to say nothing of a female bishop. And yet those who filled the pews nearly 70 years ago would have found much reassuringly familiar: a procession that was overwhelmingly male, with only the queen's male relatives, save for her daughter, allowed to walk behind the coffin. The women followed by car.

We knew already that Britain, or more precisely the Palace, is without rival when it comes to the business of pageant and ceremony. The choreography was perfect, every footstep of



▲ *Admiration for the Queen was very common, but will the royals now be seen as such a unifying force?*

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

every red-tunicked guardsman synchronised - even those of the pallbearers carrying their baleful load up the steep steps of St George's chapel, Windsor - so that the TV pictures beamed around the world were gorgeous, no matter the angle. When a drone looked down, it saw boots moving in neat unison or flowers laid out on the verges of Windsor's Long Walk in geometrically flawless lines.

In both abbey and chapel, the choirs produced the sound of heaven. Even the weather complied, the capital under a bright blue sky, as if nature itself was awed by the occasion.

When a rare moment of imperfection came - a frog in a cleric's throat, another churchman dropping a piece of paper - it too brought a useful reminder. That, despite the presence of kings and queens, presidents and potentates,

The question looms: was the British people's bond with the institution of monarchy, or with Elizabeth herself?

and despite the splendour, it was still a human event, a family funeral, with all that that entails. The glimpses of the disgraced Duke of York, barred from wearing the dress uniform allowed to his siblings, the downgraded Prince Harry, or Earl Spencer, the brother of the late Princess Diana, prompted the recollection that, for all her majesty, the Queen headed a family with its fair share of domestic troubles - perhaps more than its fair share. The knots that appeared on the brow of Charles, the hint of redness around the eyes, were reminders that the new King is also a son grieving the loss of his mother.

And yet, magnificent though the day was, it might not be what many will remember as their farewell to the late monarch. For hundreds of thousands, the real goodbye started last Wednesday with the lying-in-state in Westminster Hall.

For five long days, around the clock, we witnessed a slow motion, people's funeral as Britons queued up for the right to say a brief, personal goodbye.

To stand in the hall, watching those filing past, was unexpectedly mesmerising, an endless series of small dramas played out in four or five seconds each. In an exquisite hush, the floor carpeted against the sound of footsteps, and with all phones and cameras prohibited, an old soldier might pause and salute. A young man would cross himself. A couple would dip their heads. A mother and daughter might curtsy in unison. Then they would keep on walking, most giving one last look back before heading out into the daylight. Some of them had queued for 12 or 13 hours, just for those few seconds facing the remains of the queen. Not one person said it had not been worth it.

Whether it came then, or when the military standards dipped as the procession passed the Cenotaph, or when those lining the A30 tossed flowers onto the royal hearse, or when TV viewers saw the orb, sceptre and crown removed from the coffin before it was lowered into the chapel vault at Windsor - whenever it came, that moment brought with it the same, if seldom voiced question: what exactly were we burying yesterday?

One answer was suggested by the presence in Westminster Abbey of so many world leaders, many of them agreeing to slum it and travel by coach. Few would claim they did that out of respect for the office of British head of state: rather,

they came to London out of a very specific admiration for Elizabeth II. She was a priceless diplomatic asset for Britain. Even a US president could be wooed by the offer of tea with the Queen. Somehow she pulled off the illusion, seeming the figurehead of a great power, wearer of what we were reminded is still the "imperial state crown" - even when there's no empire. She pulled off that trick, seeming a plausible successor to Victoria, even to the first Queen Elizabeth. It would be bold to predict that King Charles will do the same.

The late queen was a political asset closer to home too. Consider the symbolic power of her handshake with Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness or the impact of her advice to Scottish voters to "think very carefully" before the independence referendum of 2014. Was that impact down to the office she held or who she was, the gravitas she had acquired over a reign that had endured so long that her first prime minister was Winston Churchill?

That suggests one more thing was interred in Windsor. Elizabeth was the last human link in public life to the second world war, the foundational event of modern Britain. Our relationship with that epic event becomes more remote now, a matter of history rather than living memory. Along with Elizabeth, yesterday we might have buried the postwar era.

We will certainly no longer have a head of state who speaks with the moral weight of the wartime generation. That poses a challenge to the monarchy itself, now devoid of what had been its most powerful argument. Much has been said in recent days about the deep, even mystical connection between the people and their sovereign, one that seems rooted in a Britain, or perhaps an England, that goes back 1,000 years. But again the question looms: was that bond with the institution of monarchy, or with Elizabeth herself? If it was chiefly the latter, will some of the irrationalities, unfairnesses and costs of a hereditary monarchy now press on the public mind in a way they did not while she lived?

Most profound of all is the question contained within all the others. Is it possible that in the Windsor vault now lies buried the person who, more than any other, served to cohere these islands? The last 10 days have been a holiday from the usual political polarisation: admiration for the Queen was one of the few things most people could agree on. It's telling that the new king made such early visits to Edinburgh, Belfast and Cardiff. His mother was part of the glue that bound together the union. If that turns out to have been the magic of Elizabeth, rather than the crown, then it's not clear how long there will be a United Kingdom for Charles to reign over.

Even in families that are not royal, funerals serve as healing events, to be sure - but they can also see the eruption of arguments that have long been postponed. In burying its matriarch, Britain may at last have to confront what has laid buried for so long.



▲ *'His parents will be gutted,' Damon Evans said on Twitter*

Social media Irreverence focuses on Louis and the 'ghost'

Martin Belam

Not all of the nation was gripped to the television in reverential silence during the state funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, as the conversations about the event on social media inevitably turned to observations about some of the quirkier elements.

Some suggested it might be time for the royal family to give a little back to the world of football, after all the tributes paid at sporting events in the previous 10 days.

Twitter user Fancy Brenda wrote: "Given that they had a minute's silence and played the National Anthem before every professional football match this weekend, it only seems fair to allow a brief five-a-side game before the funeral kicks off."



▲ *Viewers joked that Truss had been cited as a 14-year-old called John*



▲ *@Tilskatoff added ghostly eyes to a plume on a guard's helmet*

Much has been made of the fact that the Queen received 15 prime ministers, four of them in the past six years alone. Some suggested the sight of the former PMs didn't indicate an improvement over time. Writing on Twitter, Andrew Harrison said: "This parade of former PMs in chronological order from Major to Johnson looks like a tableau called The Descent of Man."

There were some expressions of concern about Prince George and Princess Charlotte having roles in such a public ceremony at a young age, and comparisons with the appearance of Prince William and Prince Harry at their own mother's funeral in 1997. However, there was a theory as to why Prince Louis was occupied elsewhere on the day his great-grandmother was buried.

Madeline Grant tweeted: "I like how Louis is considered too much of a loose cannon to have at the funeral. Not even 5 and already the Princess Margaret of his generation."

Louis had, after all, stolen the show during the Queen's platinum jubilee with a selection of dramatic expressions from the Buckingham Palace balcony.

At the service in Westminster Abbey, you wouldn't have wished "dropping your notes right next to the Queen's coffin in front of a television audience projected to be billions" - as a vicar did - on your worst enemy.

The arachnid cameo did not go unnoticed. The spider benefited from better television coverage than one choir boy who was covered by a lamp.



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

'Part of history' Thousands take to the streets for final salute to the Queen

Esther Addley



As the Queen's coffin emerged from Westminster Hall just before 11 o'clock for the short, slow journey to her funeral service at Westminster Abbey, the thousands who had gathered at Parliament Square, in Whitehall and along the Mall gradually fell into silence. The companionable chatter stilled, some climbed to their feet from folded chairs. Some bowed their heads.

Many, even among those who had been there all night, were dressed in black, others wore a chestful of medals or a union jack waistcoat, or wrapped themselves in a flag. There were woolly beanies and black fascinators, selfie sticks and a few stepladders.

Each had come for his or her own reason: to express personal sadness at the Queen's death, to represent absent family members who would have wanted to be there - or just to be part of a big day. Janine Cleere from Wiltshire had camped out all night on the Mall, sharing a single sleeping bag with two friends against the September chill to be "part of history".

"She's all we have ever known and now we have her no

longer," she said. "It's very sad."

For Christina Burrows, who had bagged a spot next to a bollard on Whitehall, it was important to come. "I've always seen her as a beacon. During lockdown, when she said: 'We'll meet again', that was wonderful. It gave me a lot of hope. I wanted to be here for her like she was for us."

As she spoke, she sighed and clapped her hands to her face. "Oh God, I can't believe it. There will never be another day like this in our lives."

For some, the early start and long, long wait had taken its toll. Having left home in Northampton at 4am, passing some of the hours by counting the windows in Buckingham Palace, seven-year-old Esther Young dropped off on the lap of a family friend just as the long-awaited service began.

A million people had been expected to come to central London yesterday. Many tens of thousands have done so already in the strange days since the Queen died, queueing for hours along the South Bank in a display of self-consciously British resilience of which the late monarch herself would surely have been proud.

Late on Sunday the queue was closed, and at 6.30am Chrissy Heerey, a serving member of the RAF from Melton Mowbray, became the very last member of

the public to pass by the coffin in Westminster Hall. It was, she said, "one of the highlights of my life ... I feel very privileged to be here."

Outside some were going to work or coming home from a bank holiday night out; others were preparing for a big day ahead. Outside Buckingham Palace those who had camped out for days were desperately trying to hold on to their spots in the front row. Cara Jennings, 52, from Minster in Kent, was wrapped in a blanket after her fifth night camping by Green Park.

With her mobility scooter parked beside her blue pop-up tent, she tried to guard her position at the front row of the railing on the Mall. "I just wanted to get a perfect spot to pay my respects to a lovely woman," she said. Jennings said her grandmother and great-grandmother had worked for the Queen as cleaners and that her five children thought it was "brilliant" that she had made the pilgrimage.

Not everyone was there as an ardent royalist. Antonis Manvelides, 24, and Jess Nash, 24, had come to the Mall on their fourth date, walking from Nash's flat in Pimlico at 4am to be there. "I forced him to come," Nash, who works for a tech startup, said. "We just wanted to see and be with the UK and be part of the atmosphere."

But there was no doubting that for many others it was a moment



◀ A group of household staff at Buckingham Palace pay their respects during the state funeral

to secure a spot for her best friend, their children and their camping chairs. A veteran of the big occasions, Merrick had also camped out for the Princess Royal's wedding in 1972, the Jubilee in 1977, and again for Charles and Diana's wedding in 1981.

She would have slept overnight again for the funeral but was unable to do so due her foster carer responsibilities - she is planning to make up for it at the Coronation, when she will sleep out for two nights, she said.

The royals, she said, "offer a lot to this country. I have so much respect. The Queen has been there all my life - it's weird referring to the King now."

As for the crowd, "People are mostly kind, but there's a bit of pushing and shoving."

On Whitehall, too, there was a little anxiety about securing a good viewpoint.

"The difficulty is you always think there might be a better view 100 metres away," said Robert Madeley, who along with his friend Christopher Clowes had come from Leicestershire in full

of genuine and deep emotion. The mood was quiet, broken by the occasional cheer as the police officers on the Mall, trying to entertain the crowds, rode their horses up to the barriers.

Amrit Nagy and her mother, Meena, had woken at 5.30am to travel to central London from East Ham, the younger woman clutching a candle that she had designed and which she hoped to leave near Buckingham Palace.

They had also attended the funeral of the Queen Mother and the now Prince and Princess of Wales's royal wedding. Compared with that event, said Amrit, "It's not as loud, and everyone is more respectful". She appreciated the Queen as "the grandmother of the nation", she said.

Sarah Merrick had left home in Hampshire early in the morning

► Some of the thousands of people who gathered in Hyde Park in London to watch the Queen's funeral on large screens

PHOTOGRAPH:
SARAH LEE/
THE GUARDIAN



▼ *Crowds watch the Queen's coffin and the funeral procession pass by in central London*

PHOTOGRAPH: MAJA SMIEJKOWSKA/REUTERS



morning dress - "it's what she would have wanted" - with a box of flapjacks in hand.

Parents lifted their children above the throng of spectators to catch a glimpse, while others sought to keep their tired offspring entertained with iPads and games of Top Trumps.

One youngster in need of the toilet asked anxiously: "We're not going to lose our place, are we Daddy?"

The funeral demanded the largest security operation ever seen in London, and a careful marshalling of the crowds. With so many world leaders attending, police had over the weekend gradually extended a secure cordon around Westminster Abbey, meaning the nearest members of the public were several hundred metres away. It meant that the delicate choreography of the arrival of the Queen's coffin and its slow passage into the abbey was watched only by the cameras and a handful of media on a temporary wooden stand.

While the service was broadcast on speakers along the route, moving some to tears, others resumed chatting among each other during the service.

As the congregation at its

close sang the national anthem, the crowds on the Mall joined in - many, notably, singing God Save the Queen, doubtless for the last time.

Marion King had been in high spirits in the morning, celebrating her 59th birthday by camping out with her sister since Saturday. During the service, however, she "cried buckets".

"We were emotional when the children went past in the cars on the way to Westminster and when we listened to the service over the speakers.

"There was not a sound in the two minutes' silence, you could hear a pin drop over here."

As the service ended, the crowd outside Buckingham Palace stayed almost silent, waiting for the procession to arrive and speaking only in hushed whispers, while seagulls could be heard overhead.

For some of the youngest members of the crowd, however, it had been a very long wait. Several families used the children perched on their shoulders as lookouts for the anticipated moment when the coffin would pass and exchanging tips on how best to spot it. Others with a strong enough mobile signal followed the television coverage on their phones.

As the gun carriage finally passed, with the King and other family members behind, there was a crush to the barriers as people stood on chairs and held phone cameras high to capture the moment.

Others were overcome by the emotion of the day. "I can't speak without crying," said Paul Denham, from Westbury in Wiltshire, who



▲ *Esther Nyad, a barrister from London, joins mourners in Hyde Park awaiting the funeral cortege*



had watched the procession with his wife, Diana. "I am 62 and she's been there for my whole life, and now she isn't."

Diana had struggled to get through "God Save the King," she said. "My mum died 18 months ago and the Queen reminded me of my mum. She had what we thought were similar smiles."

After a final, brief ceremony away from the public gaze at Wellington Arch, the coffin was lifted from the gun carriage and placed in the state hearse for its final journey to Windsor.

Long after it had departed and the world's leaders had been transported away in coaches in the manner of a very high-end school trip, 91-year-old Anne van Drimmelen was sitting contentedly in a chair by the front of the Parliament Square barriers, waiting for the crowds to clear.

Having attended both the Queen's coronation and the funeral of her father, George VI, she had decided several days ago to travel from her village of Flore in Northamptonshire. "It was something I just wanted to see."

She had been guarded during her two-day stay by a neighbour from home, Sharon Mayne ("We heard she was going and thought, she can't go alone.") along with others she met in the queue, while police officers brought the elderly woman cups of tea.

Was the long wait worth it?

"When the gun carriage came out from parliament everyone suddenly went silent," said Mayne. "You could hear a pin drop. It was a magical experience."

In Windsor, meanwhile, dense crowds had gathered in the Great Park to witness what the BBC commentator Huw Edwards had referred to several times as the Queen's journey "home", to Windsor Castle.

It had been a long wait for many, but as the hearse, led by the Household Cavalry and escorted by members of the Grenadier Guards, turned into the historic Long Walk that leads up to the castle, the crowd fell silent. Some applauded, while a great many others filmed the procession, the crowd so dense that many at the back could glimpse the procession only lifting their phones high on selfie sticks.

On its bonnet and roof were flowers that had been thrown by members of the public as it passed.

▲ *Many people got to the procession route early to be sure of a good view*

PHOTOGRAPH: JILL MEAD/THE GUARDIAN

Jay Gallagher, 47, travelled from Kettering, Northamptonshire, with his partner and son. Having served for six years as an infanteer in the Royal Anglians 2nd regiment, he referred to the Queen as his "boss". "She was someone who I have always looked up to," he said. "I served for her."

Tep Crowder, 57, from the nearby village of Holyport, said he came to Windsor to see the Queen "for the last time".

"The values she held make us who we are, she made us Britain," he said. "She gave us a special place in the world. She showed us how to behave." Without the Queen, Crowder said, there was a "sense of instability", adding King Charles had "big shoes to fill".

For Kirsty Jones and her family, seeing the last part of the public journey had "really felt final".

Clad with union flags and a toy Paddington bear, the family had stayed overnight in a nearby hotel with their children, Amelia, 11, Hadley, nine, and Hattie, seven, after paying their respects in their hometown of Sandringham, in Norfolk.

"You do see more when you watch it on the television from home, but I wanted the children to actually be part of it and feel the sadness and the grief that everyone is feeling," she said.

Her husband added: "It's about making memories - somebody said on the television this morning that it marks the end of the postwar era - and it does feel like the end of an era."

As the coffin passed beyond the crowds for the final time and into the grounds of the castle for her private committal service, it was greeted by the Queen's favourite horse, Emma, while two of her corgis, Sandy and Muick, awaited her arrival at the chapel steps. First, though, it passed through a carpet of flowers, some of the many thousands of bunches that had been left by her subjects as a final mark of affection and respect from them to a cherished and remarkable Queen.

Contributors: Aubrey Allegretti, Archie Bland, Emily Dugan, Jamie Grierson, Rachel Hall, Ben Quinn, Emine Sinmaz and Peter Walker



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

▼ Former prime ministers John Major and Tony Blair with Liz Truss outside Westminster Abbey
PHOTOGRAPH: HANNAH MCKAY/REUTERS

Politics

Six PMs plus Labour, SNP and Sinn Féin figures attend

Rowena Mason

Deputy political editor

Liz Truss and Lady Scotland were the only two politicians to speak at the Queen's funeral, giving readings from the Bible.

Truss, who became prime minister two weeks ago, was accompanied by her husband, Hugh O'Leary, for the service at Westminster Abbey. She was greeted by members of the clergy and shook their hands before taking her seat.

She read the second lesson for mourners from John 14 as dignitaries gathered in Westminster Abbey, with a lesson of comfort, evoking the promise of eternal life in heaven. "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God," she read.

Scotland, the secretary general of the Commonwealth and a former attorney general under Labour, gave the first reading, from 1 Corinthians 15.

Among the congregation were all six living former prime ministers: John Major, Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, Theresa May, David Cameron and Boris Johnson.

There was a brief moment of initial awkwardness as the more recent incumbents – May, Cameron and Johnson – arrived first with their spouses but had to wait for their predecessors to arrive so that they could file in in chronological order.

Many more politicians also attended the funeral from the government and opposition parties, including Keir Starmer, who yesterday praised the royal family for their "absolutely fantastic" handling of the last 10 days. Other senior politicians included the Welsh first minister, Mark Drakeford, and Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon.

"She was the great constant," said Sturgeon, adding that it was a "great honour" to represent Scotland.

Sinn Féin's vice-president, Michelle O'Neill, also attended the state funeral, illustrating how much relations have improved between her party and the British royal family. "Today I respectfully join leaders from Britain, Ireland and the international community at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II as she is laid to rest," she said.

"It is a sad day for her family, who mourn her loss, and all those of a British identity from across our community who grieve also."

The last prime minister at the state funeral of a monarch was Winston Churchill, who laid a wreath and message reading "For valour" at the service for King George VI.

After attending the funeral, Truss made her way separately to Windsor for the smaller committal service for the Queen, with Major and Blair, who are garter knights, also attending.



VIP congregation World leaders bus in – but Biden arrives late in the Beast

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

He may be the world's most powerful man but the apparent late arrival of the US president, Joe Biden, and his wife, Jill, was not allowed to disrupt the finely tuned choreography of the Queen's state funeral yesterday.

Rather than being ushered immediately to their seats on their arrival at Westminster Abbey, the first couple, aged 79 and 71, had to be gently told that they would need to stand and wait as a procession of

George and Victoria Cross holders went ahead of them down the nave of the abbey.

After an awkward period of small talk, as those awarded the highest decorations for valour went ahead, the Bidens finally followed in the wake of Victoria Cross holder Colour Sergeant Johnson Beharry, pushing the wheelchair of Keith Payne VC, aged 89.

The US president had been given a dispensation to make his journey to the abbey in "the Beast", a heavily armoured limousine used by US presidents for security reasons, rather than be bussed to the abbey with the other heads of state and government.

Camera footage shared on social media showed that the Bidens had made slow progress through central London, even being momentarily forced to stop outside a Pret a Manger on Oxford Street.

After arriving hand in hand, the Bidens finally sat down in their places in the abbey at 10.05am. The schedule that had been published by Buckingham Palace suggested the 500 invited dignitaries should have been seated between 9.35am and 9.55am.

Perhaps as a consequence of opting out of the buses taking other leaders from the assembly point at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, the Bidens were also given seats 14



► Jill and Joe Biden board Air Force One at Stansted airport on their way back to the US shortly after the funeral

PHOTOGRAPH: BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





Kenya ▲ The president of Kenya, William Ruto, and other African leaders inside a bus on their way to the funeral
PHOTOGRAPH: KENYANS.CO.KE



▲ Boris Johnson and his wife Carrie arrive at Westminster Abbey

rows back in the south transept of the abbey. The US president took his seat behind Andrzej Duda, the president of Poland, and in front of Petr Fiala, the prime minister of the Czech Republic. Sitting to her husband's left, Jill Biden sat next to Ignazio Cassis, the president of Switzerland. The special treatment demanded by the White House was by some way not the most significant diplomatic difficulty facing the earl marshal, the Duke of Norfolk, who was in charge of planning the funeral.

While the decision of Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to not attend avoided the possibility of some damaging headlines, the decision to invite Spain's disgraced former king Juan Carlos, and to then seat him next to his son, King Felipe VI and his wife, Queen Letizia, appears likely to make things difficult for the Spanish royal family back home.

Felipe, 54, came to the throne when his father abdicated in 2014 amid dwindling popularity. The 84-year-old, who appeared frail and had to lean on an aide, spends most of his time in self-imposed exile in Abu Dhabi following a series of scandals related to his finances that culminated in Felipe stripping him of his annual stipend and renouncing his personal inheritance.

There had already been a backlash over Juan Carlos's attendance at the funeral but the Spanish royal household had been determined to at least not to make it worse by allowing a photograph to emerge of the two kings together, only for the demands of royal protocol to make it unavoidable.

Gerardo Pisarello, an MP for the Catalan branch of the leftwing, anti-austerity Podemos party, tweeted: "[Felipe] says he wants nothing to do with his father; that he's renounced his inheritance and knew nothing about the fiscal outrages. Then they go and sit together as if nothing's happened, all while Juan Carlos is investigated in England. Shameful."

Pisarello was referring to a case being made against Juan Carlos by a former lover who has accused him of harassment.

The abbey bore witness to the gathering of royals and world leaders of a kind not seen for many decades. Among those attending were Japan's emperor, Naruhito, who rarely makes overseas visits, and Empress Masako, who has been largely absent from public appearances since suffering from what the imperial household agency has described as an "adjustment disorder" after giving birth to the couple's only child, Princess Aiko.

US visit

Truss to meet Biden as she attempts to repair ties strained over Brexit row

Pippa Crerar
New York

Liz Truss has arrived in the United States where she will hold talks with Joe Biden on her first foreign trip as UK prime minister.

Relations between the two leaders are already strained by her threats as foreign secretary to rip up the post-Brexit trading arrangements in Northern Ireland.

Biden has expressed concerns that peace in the province should not be undermined by the Brexit row, and has been reluctant to strike a free trade deal with the UK as a result.

However, the pair are likely to find common ground on pursuing a tough line on Russia over its invasion of Ukraine, as well as sharing a hawkish approach to China.

Truss will use her visit to the UN general assembly in New York to underline Britain's commitment to Ukraine with a pledge of at least £2.3bn in military aid next year.

In recent days, Ukraine has made major military gains against Russia, liberating territory in the east. The UK is expected to provide more equipment to Ukraine such as the multiple launch rocket system that has helped it regain more than 3,000 sq km (1,200 sq miles). It is already the second largest military donor to Ukraine after the US, committing £2.3bn in 2022 and providing hundreds of rockets and five air defence systems, as well as training troops.

Before the trip, the prime minister said: "Ukraine's victories in recent



▲ Truss at Westminster Abbey yesterday. She has arrived in the US for a visit to the UN general assembly
PHOTOGRAPH: BEN STANSALL/GETTY IMAGES

weeks have been inspirational. Time and time again these brave people have ... showed what they can do when given the military, economic and political support they need.

"My message to the people of Ukraine is this: the UK will continue to be right behind you every step of the way. Your security is our security."

She will also tell fellow leaders that they must put an end to Putin's economic blackmail by removing all energy dependence on Russia.

This month Russia again closed off the Nord Stream pipeline, with restrictions on supply leading to further spikes in energy prices.

Truss said: "Putin has consigned millions of people in Europe to a colder and more difficult winter."

"Too many lives - in Ukraine, in Europe and around the world - are being manipulated by a dependence on Russian energy. We need to work together to end this once and for all."

The prime minister wants to use the diplomatic visit to encourage global efforts to stop Russia from

'Putin has consigned millions to a colder, more difficult winter'

Liz Truss
Prime minister

Four-legged farewells Queen's corgis and pony join the crowds

Martin Belam

It wasn't just the humans of the royal household who turned out to say farewell to the monarch yesterday. The Queen's corgis and one of her ponies were also led out to witness the procession at Windsor.

The Queen's dogs, Muick and Sandy, Pembroke Welsh corgis, waited in the quadrangle at Windsor Castle as the funeral cortege arrived.

At the time of her death the Queen had two other dogs - a dorgi called

► Muick and Sandy, the Queen's two corgis, in the quadrangle at Windsor

Candy and Lissy the cocker spaniel. It has been confirmed that Prince Andrew and his ex-wife Sarah Ferguson will look after the corgis.

The Queen was first given a corgi when she was seven, and generations of the royal corgis are descended from Susan, who she got when she was 18.



profiting from its energy exports while ending energy dependence on authoritarian regimes.

Her most significant bilateral talks, which will define the next two years of the "special relationship", will be with the US president after a planned meeting in Downing Street was rescheduled for tomorrow at the UN.

While there are existing tensions over Brexit between the two leaders, inherited from Boris Johnson's government, both sides are said to be hoping to improve the relationship amid signs that talks between the UK and the EU will resume over the protracted dispute.

After a meeting between Truss and the Irish PM, Micheál Martin, on Sunday, both sides were understood to have agreed that there was an opportunity to reset relations between the UK and Ireland, fuelling hopes that talks with Brussels will restart.

During Truss's two-day trip to New York, she will hold bilateral meetings with other leaders including the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, and the French president, Emmanuel Macron.

It will be the first official meeting with Macron since Truss's comments during the Tory leadership race that the "jury's out" over whether he was a "friend or foe".

She will also address the UN directly in a speech tomorrow, with British officials privately believing that, despite her sometimes stilted delivery, she will get a better reception than Johnson who last year left diplomats bemused with his ramblings about Kermit the frog.

Also making an appearance was the Queen's fell pony, Carltonima Emma, who was led to the side of the road at a gap between the floral tributes while the coffin was driven past.

Usually known as Emma, the horse was named among the Queen's favourite horses by Horse & Hound magazine in 2020 by Terry Pendry, a groom at Windsor. The Queen was a patron of the Fell Pony Society, and continued to ride Emma until she was well into her 90s.

The animals did not play as prominent a role as they have in past royal funerals. Heads of state were reportedly surprised at the 1910 funeral of Edward VII to find themselves behind the monarch's dog, Caesar, a wire fox terrier, in the formal procession. Caesar is included in a sculpture of Edward VII and his Queen atop their tomb in St George's Chapel, where Queen Elizabeth's committal took place on Monday.



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II



◀ Members of the clergy wait for Queen Elizabeth's coffin to arrive at Westminster Abbey

PHOTOGRAPH: DANNY LAWSON/PA

'We will meet again': Christian themes at heart of funeral sermon

Harriet Sherwood

The powerful liturgy and rituals of the Church of England – the established church since the 16th century but increasingly marginalised in everyday life – were at the heart of a ceremony watched by billions around the world.

The Queen's funeral took place under the magnificent Gothic arches of Westminster Abbey, the setting for every coronation since 1066, home to the tombs of kings and queens, and the church where Princess Elizabeth was married in 1947.

The service was taken from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the C of E's official prayerbook, noted for its beautiful and archaic language but largely displaced in recent decades by those seeking a more modern style of worship.

The Queen was said to be devoted to the Book of Common Prayer, along with the hymns and readings chosen personally by the monarch for her funeral.

The centrality of the Church of England and its leading figures in the funeral service reflected its unique status, with the monarch as its supreme governor and defender of the faith. But, acknowledging the multi-faith, multicultural nature of modern society, representatives of other religions and Christian traditions were given a prominent place in the ceremonials.

In his sermon, Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury, focused on eternal life after death, the central message of traditional Christian funerals. He said: "The pattern for many leaders is to be exalted in life and forgotten after death. The pattern

for all who serve God – famous or obscure, respected or ignored – is that death is the door to glory."

The archbishop recalled the Queen's promise on her 21st birthday to dedicate her life to service. "Rarely has such a promise been so well kept. Few leaders receive the outpouring of love we have seen."

Speaking to the 2,000-strong congregation, which included royalty, world leaders and members of the British establishment, he said: "People of loving service are rare in any walk of life. Leaders of loving service are still rarer. But in all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privileges are long forgotten."

Her family were "grieving as every family at a funeral ... but in this family's case doing so in the brightest spotlight. May God heal their sorrow, may the gap in their lives be marked with memories of joy and life."

Welby ended his sermon by echoing the Queen's words in her Covid lockdown address to the nation. "We will meet again" were words of hope, he said.

"We will all face the merciful judgment of God: we can all share the Queen's hope, which in life and death inspired her servant leadership. Service in life, hope in death.



▲ The Queen's fell pony Emma, seen as the coffin reaches Windsor Castle

All who follow the Queen's example, and inspiration of trust and faith in God, can with her say: 'We will meet again.'"

The procession that opened the service included faith representatives, led by Marie van der Zyl, the president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Zoroastrian, Buddhist, Jain and Bahá'í communities were also represented.

Church leaders from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland joined those from different Christian traditions in England, including the Roman Catholic church and black-majority Pentecostal churches.

The all-male choir of Westminster Abbey, one of the few Anglican cathedrals in England that has not admitted female choristers, sang psalms and anthems.

Sentences from scripture that were sung during the procession of the coffin included: "We brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

At the later committal service in St George's Chapel, Windsor, David Conner, the dean of Windsor, said: "In the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, [the Queen's] calm and dignified presence has given us confidence to face the future, as she did, with courage and with hope." He read a passage from the book of Revelation that was also read at the funerals of the Queen's father and grandfather.

As the coffin was lowered into the family vault, the dean spoke the words: "Go forth upon thy journey from this world, O Christian soul."

A final, private burial service for close family members was held in St George's Chapel at 7.30pm.



Sketch
John Grace



Unrivalled pomp and pageantry to make us feel proud again – a superpower. Just for one day

We can be Heroes, Just for One Day. In death, Queen Elizabeth first gave us The Queue. A chance for the UK to show its gentler, more united self. That we could be quite nice to one another if we put our minds to it. Then, at her funeral, her second gift was to – temporarily at least – give the country back a sense of its importance. Thoughts that we were a nation in decline, with a large number of its population unsure if they could afford to eat

and heat in the coming months, were put on hold. We had a history worth celebrating. We and the country did matter.

Leaders from around the world were gathering at Westminster Abbey to pay their respects to our late Queen in an unrivalled ceremony of pomp and pageantry. We could tell ourselves that no one else could have given their head of state a better send off. We were the centre of attention. We were a superpower. We could be proud. Delusional, maybe. But proud. Just for one day.

The guests started to arrive



◀ The service was taken from the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the Church of England's official prayerbook, following the Queen's wishes

PHOTOGRAPH: DOMINIC LIPINSKI/REUTERS

The music

A flawless mix of the formal and personal

Tim Ashley

The Queen's state funeral was a thing of musical contrasts. Outside, the skirl of bagpipes, tolling bells, bands, tramping feet and solemn marches by Beethoven, Chopin and Mendelssohn, as immense processions wound their way through London. Inside Westminster Abbey, the pomp was tempered by reflection on a long life and reign, interwoven with British choral music from the 17th century to the present day, sung by the choirs of Westminster Abbey and the Chapel Royal, St James Palace, conducted by the abbey's director of music, James O'Donnell.

Tradition predictably hung heavy. The haunting Sentences, sung as the coffin was brought in, have remained unchanged since the 18th century; their composer was William Croft, then the abbey's organist, though in deference to his great predecessor, Henry Purcell, Croft also retained the latter's *Thou Knowest, Lord, the Secrets of our Hearts*, written for the funeral of Mary II in 1695.

Thereafter the anthems, psalms, hymns and organ music are a matter of choice. The hymns included *The Lord's My Shepherd*, *I'll Not Want*, a favourite of the Queen and sung at her wedding, while Vaughan Williams' *O Taste and See* was written for her coronation. One of the anthems, *My Soul, There Is a Country*, setting poetry by Henry Vaughan, was taken from *Songs of Farewell* by Hubert Parry. The organ music before the service, played by Peter Holder and Matthew Jorysz, paid tribute to former masters of the Kings or Queen's music, including Elgar, Malcolm Williamson and Peter Maxwell Davies.

There was also, however, new music: a setting of part of psalm 42, *Like as the Hart Desireth the Water-brooks*, by Judith Weir, current master of the King's music; and *Who Shall Separate Us From the Love of Christ* by James MacMillan. Both pieces deserve to be heard beyond their immediate context.

You couldn't fault how any of it was done. The Sentences were touching, the anthems wonderfully focused. Too much of the organ music at the start was obscured by TV commentary, but Holder's playing of Bach's *Fantasia in C Minor* at the close was magnificently imposing.

at the abbey shortly after 8am. Selected members of the public were followed by non-reigning monarchs – take a bow the Prince of Venice and the Margrave of Baden – and other politicians.

Next were the minor heads of state, bussed in. Several tried to show their orange invites at the door. They were just waved through. No one was expecting any gatecrashers for this event. The only uninvited guest turned out to be the spider that had got into the flowers on the Queen's coffin.

Joe Biden arrived in his car and had to wait at the West Door to allow the procession of holders of the Victoria and George Cross to take their seats ahead of him. Then came the former prime ministers. First John Major, by all accounts the Queen's favourite, and ending with Boris Johnson, by all accounts the most loathed. Her last service to the country while she was alive was to see the back of him.

The minor royals took their places – James Severn, the son of Prince Edward, is only 14 but has still managed to accrue a couple of medals – along with the Princess of Wales and her two

eldest children, Prince George and Princess Charlotte. The succession subtext was inescapable. All is well with the House of Windsor. Over at Westminster Hall, the Queen's four children along with the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex were getting ready to walk behind the coffin as it was pulled on a gun carriage by more than 140 sailors.

Outside the Abbey, there were a few cheers but mostly a sense of quiet. Even the planes had been diverted. The one interruption, on the BBC at least, was the sound of Huw Edwards telling everyone what they could already see and promising that there would be no commentary during the service itself. A blessed relief. The whole occasion was both quintessentially British in its ceremony and yet also profoundly unBritish. Normally we try to tuck death away somewhere where it can't be seen. Or felt. Somewhere we can pretend it isn't the price we pay for living. Yet here we had death take centre stage. The Queen's coffin in the centre of the abbey. It felt somehow healing.

Lady Scotland read the first lesson, taken from Corinthians. She spoke superbly, so much so that

even those of no faith could half believe that faith might triumph over death. That there was an afterlife. Liz Truss predictably murdered the second lesson from St John. Still her deathly monotone wasn't entirely out of place at a funeral.

The King looked thoughtful as the congregation gave a spine-tingling rendition of the national anthem. Well he might. He's not just grieving for his mother, he's got to follow her example. Who knows if the country will ever come to love him as much as they loved the Queen. Or indeed if he can hold the monarchy together.

Liz Truss murdered the second lesson from St John. Still, her deathly monotone wasn't entirely out of place at a funeral

After the service the cortege processed up to Marble Arch. The heralds and the pursuivants, looking like extras from a Disney theme park, tried to march in time while not stepping in horse poo, while senior royals oversaw the transfer of the Queen to the hearse. Some flowers were thrown, but this was no Princess Di moment. A time for grandeur and dignity rather than touchy-feely emotions.

The final public act took place in St George's Chapel, Windsor. Despite a congregation of 800, it felt intimate. Almost as if we were intruding on something private. Something historic, as the mace, orb and crown were removed from the coffin. Something majestic, as the lord chamberlain broke the wand of office and laid it on the coffin. Something unbearable, as the King stood in front of the coffin while it descended into the vault. The last we would see of the Queen.

Charles looked so lonely. Lost even. As if he'd waited 73 years for this moment and now didn't know if he really wanted it. The bagpipe lament spoke for him. As it did for all of us. Rest in peace.



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

Edinburgh



Tea, cake, toast – and tissues Around the UK, shared sense of loss brings communities closer together

Reporting team

Jessica Murray, Steven Morris, Lisa O'Carroll, Libby Brooks

Smethwick, West Midlands

Watching the Queen's funeral brought back difficult memories for Craig Wilkins, 53, whose parents died from Covid three weeks apart last year aged in their 70s.

That was why he decided to join about 30 people at the Dorothy Parkes community centre in Smethwick to watch the funeral, rather than watching it at home.

"It's really helped me today. Mum and Dad were Queen mad basically, so it has brought back a lot of memories I had with them," Wilkins said. "I did get a bit emotional at certain points. Being with other people brought me a lot of comfort. I didn't want to be watching it alone at home."

Most community centres closed their doors for the bank holiday, but Robert Bruce, the CEO of the Dorothy Parkes centre, said keeping it open was a "no-brainer".

"After Covid, we saw the impact bereavement had on people, especially not being able to grieve in the usual way because of all the restrictions," he said. "I think watching something like this, for some people it will bring it all back home."

"We knew there would be people out there watching it on their own and probably finding it quite upsetting, so we wanted to

give them the opportunity to come together."

Staff and volunteers set up a projector in the main hall and laid out a spread of tea and cakes, alongside some boxes of tissues in anticipation of tears being shed.

"I don't think the Queen's death has sunk in until today, I feel really sad," said Christine Tanner, 75, a volunteer. "I found [the funeral] very emotional, I choked up at a couple of points."

Judy Padel, 73, said she could remember the Queen visiting her home country, Kenya, when she was a little girl. "I remember her coming there with the Queen Mother, we saw this Rolls-Royce driving down a country road towards Nairobi, with so much security," she said.

"But I'm conflicted; I'm not sure if I'm a fan of royalty because they are so wealthy and other people around the country are so poor. But I have nothing against the Queen, she really worked hard and this is a historical moment."

She wanted to watch the service with others at the community centre, which fell to a hushed silence when the Queen's coffin was carried out of Westminster Hall. Many people joined in during the prayer and hymns, the room rose for the national anthem and chat resumed only once the service

▲ A large crowd gathers in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, to watch the Queen's funeral on a giant screen

PHOTOGRAPH: LESLEY MARTIN/PA

was over. "I just wanted to be here with people to mark the occasion," said Padel. "I heard people on the radio saying they were camped out in London to get a good spot."

"It's almost unbelievable how much trouble people have gone too. I know I've just come down the road, but it's nice to see people come together."

Treorchy, Rhondda

It was a jolly occasion when King Charles – prince, as he was then – visited the south Wales valleys town of Treorchy, named as having the UK's best high street in 2020, on a sunny day in July. Crowds lined the streets, schoolchildren decorated the red phone box, a male-voice choir sang, and Charles pulled a pint in the Lion pub.

The mood was much more sombre yesterday, a grey day in the town, in Rhondda Cynon Taff. As the Queen's funeral began, the streets emptied and people headed home or gathered at the Lion to watch.

Steven Williams, an HGV driver, followed the funeral from a corner of the pub with his six-year-old

daughter Harper. “It’s a once-in-a-lifetime thing for my generation,” he said. “We’ll never see a queen again. She’s worked all her life and I think we can all take one day off to spend time reflecting on her. It’s nice to come together as a community.”

Harper asked a string of questions: how old was the Queen; what happens next; will the King visit here again? “She’ll remember this bit of history for ever,” her father said.

Most people opted for cups of tea or coffee, soft drinks and slices of toast rather than alcohol for the funeral service itself. The two-minute silence was carefully observed, the busy clatter from the pub kitchen suddenly ceasing.

The landlord, Adrian Emmett, said he felt it was important to give people the chance to come together to watch the funeral on the pub’s 12 screens. “Pubs are at the heart of the community for all times, the good and the sad,” he said. “You celebrate the good times; you mark the bad times.”

He recalled with fondness Charles’s visit in the summer. “Days like that are fantastic for the community. It was a proud day.”

The royals have long had a close relationship with the people of the Welsh valleys. The Queen, in particular, had a strong link with nearby Aberfan after the tragedy of 1966 when an avalanche of coal waste crashed into the school and homes, claiming the lives of 116 children and 28 adults.

Suzanne Rees was in the Lion yesterday with her 13-year-old granddaughter, Summer Rowe. “We’re big royalists. I got to shake Charles’s hand when he came here. The Queen was a good age but it was still very sad.”

After the service, more people began to arrive and customers began to drink beer and wine.

Among them was Diana James, 85, who emigrated to Australia in 1960 and was back in Wales visiting her 80-year-old brother, Anthony Watkins. James toasted the Queen with a glass of New Zealand sauvignon blanc, Watkins with a local Tiny Rebel beer.

James said: “I loved the service. I cried and cried. I’ve lived in Australia for 60 years but will always be Welsh and a Brit. This has been a special day.”

Belfast

In Belfast, people expressed hope that the Queen’s spirit would transfer monarchical superpowers into Northern Irish society - hope that the togetherness shown over the past 10 days will carry into the future and mend the rifts that have for so long beset Northern Ireland.

“She really was a steady star in

▼ *People gather in Centennial Square, Birmingham, to watch the state funeral, a scene that was mirrored around the country*



Birmingham

our lives,” said Jeananne Maxwell, a social worker who had made her way to the lawns outside City Hall to pay her respects along with about 300 other people in front of the big screens broadcasting the funeral. “We are here because of the great respect we had for her.”

She added: “For Northern Ireland she kept hope in our hearts. Hope because she treated everyone as of significant value, no matter what your background or your religion, and that is how it should be.”

A short distance away, three generations of the Coen family had come with blankets, breakfast sausages, tea and prosecco to celebrate a loved life lived. Grandmother Joey hugged her daughter Joanne and granddaughters Violet and Daisy tightly, wiping away tears as the Last Post signalled the final moments of the solemn and historic events in London.

“It was very emotional, very sad. I sang every hymn. It was just wonderful,” Joey said as the crew of Royal Navy sailors started to pull the gun carriage bearing the Queen’s coffin on its penultimate journey. “I just hope King Charles will continue where his mother left off. We’re only passing this way once and we all need to be together,” she added.

She and her family had come up from Dromore in County Down to “feel the atmosphere” and the unity they felt had blanketed Northern Ireland in the past week, Joanne, a history teacher, said.

The previous night she had attended a service in her local church jointly led by a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister in honour of the Queen. “They both did the benediction in unison. Both communities took part. It symbolised what she stood for, what she valued, everyone equal.”

Simon Freedman, 51, a bus driver with Belfast’s Translink, dressed in a T-shirt commemorating the Queen’s jubilee, sat solemnly on his own throughout the ceremony. His mother died of Covid in April 2020 and the Queen’s funeral brought memories flooding back.

“We weren’t allowed a funeral. We had 10 people and 10 minutes. My mum was a royalist, she would have cancelled anything, including a holiday, for this. It was emotional watching the funeral. But it was fantastic to see everyone here come together.”

Across the sectarian divide on the Falls Road, there was a mixture

of indifference and recognition of the scale of the event.

Beneath murals commemorating those who died in the Troubles, one shopkeeper said he would not be watching the funeral. “That’s their culture, this is ours, just different,” he said.

But the Queen’s name still had the power to bridge the communities in this part of Belfast divided by a so-called peace wall.

“She was a lovely woman. She’s still a human being and she was for everyone, not just for different sides and different religions,” said Ann, 68. “It is so sad to have lost someone like her.”

Over the peace wall, Mark, 53, a former service member, stopped with his family to take photographs of the impressive array of flowers under a mural of the Queen on Crimea Street. “It was an honour for me to serve under her. But she was not just for people on one side, she was everyone,” he said. “Even members of Sinn Féin are there. What that tells you is she was respected by everyone, irrespective of their beliefs.”

Glasgow

Nan Graham, 91, sang quietly with the congregation at Westminster Abbey as they began the first verse of The Lord Is My Shepherd, one of the hymns also sung at the Queen’s marriage to Prince Philip in 1947.

She was watching the funeral of Britain’s longest-serving monarch, who was only a few years older than her, she noted, sitting in the cinema room of David Walker Gardens, a purpose-built facility for older people managed by South Lanarkshire council.

Yesterday morning the unit balanced solemnity with celebration. In the dining area, tables were set for a special afternoon tea, with triangle-cut sandwiches, regally decorated

▼ *Three generations of the Coen family watch the live broadcast in the grounds of Belfast City Hall*

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL MCERLANE/THE GUARDIAN



Belfast



Salisbury

fairly cakes and flutes of sherry. “It means an awful lot to watch this,” said Graham. “I’ve never seen anything like this before.”

She had been watching the televised events across Scotland, Edinburgh and London over the past week “morning, noon and night”, she said. “Seeing them all in my room, I felt they were near me.”

Her mother was a royalist, and her grandmother before her, “so she’s been through the generations in our family”.

Graham proudly recalled serving the Queen at two official dinners in Glasgow when she was working as a waitress in her 20s - one at the city chambers and another at the Central hotel. “Four of us took responsibility for the top table. I remember she smiled up at me. What an honour that was.” She was so nervous, her hand was shaking for days in advance.

Watching with her was Jean Gilligan, 86. “It’s very sad. She was a good yin. I always loved her hats.” Graham nodded in agreement. “I think she was well loved. You can see that here,” she said, gesturing to the crowds on the widescreen in front of her.

Gordon Cowan, who served “for Queen and country” in the Royal Navy, will celebrate his 100th birthday in November. Nursing a tumbler of whisky and water, he admired the wreath of flowers

▲ *Children hold flowers as they wait for the start of the funeral to be livestreamed at Salisbury Cathedral*

PHOTOGRAPH: FINNBARR WEBSTER/GETTY IMAGES

on top of the Queen’s coffin and noted the Scottish accent of Iain Greenshields, the moderator of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland, as he offered a prayer to the congregation.

The unit’s temporary manager, Megan Watt, is well attuned to the need to mark moments like this with her residents, as with the platinum jubilee, when they “partied for three days”. She said: “I think especially for the generation we look after, it’s important to mark this occasion. Some fought for their country during the last war.”

Other residents had congregated in the central garden courtyard, to listen to a piper play through a selection of Scottish airs. This area has been the focus of many landmark moments for the care facility in recent years, particularly during the pandemic, when the open air allowed residents to celebrate VE Day.

Yesterday it was festooned with purple-trimmed portraits of the Queen at different stages of her life. “She deserves it,” said Helen Morrison, 82. “All these people standing to watch. They all want to see her.”

‘Pubs are at the heart of the community for all times - the good and the sad’

Adrian Emmett
Lion pub, Treorchy



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II



◀ The Queen's coffin is carried into St George's chapel in Windsor Castle

PHOTOGRAPH: JONATHAN BRADY/PA

▶ Crowds line the Long Walk as the coffin arrives at Windsor Castle

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON CHOWN/PA

Back to the family

The Queen makes her last journey 'home' to Windsor

Amelia Gentleman



The symbolic end of Queen Elizabeth II's reign arrived at 4.57pm yesterday when the head of the Queen's household ceremoniously snapped his wand of office, a thin yellow staff, and placed it on the late Queen's coffin.

The lord chamberlain, Baron Parker of Minsmere, a former director general of MI5, broke the stick (originally designed to discipline courtiers) in two, marking the conclusion of both his and the Queen's service.

A few minutes earlier, in silence, the crown jeweller, wearing white gloves and lightly sweating beneath the lights, removed the orb, sceptre and crown from the top of the coffin and handed them to be placed on three purple, gold-fringed cushions on the high altar of St George's chapel in Windsor.

The four large pear-shaped pearls (possibly once worn by Queen Elizabeth I as earrings) that hang from the crown's diamond-encrusted globe and which have

been so perilously wobbling as the coffin was transported around the country over the past 10 days, were finally still.

These were strangely unassuming, arcane moments, towards the end of a marathon of funeral pomp, glutted with ceremony. Much more instantly moving was the sight of the new King, looking tired and pale, biting his lip and closing his eyes at the start of the national anthem; the strained faces of the coffin bearers, jerkily making their way up the chapel steps; and the glimpses of the Queen's favourite pets brought to pay their respects as her coffin arrived at Windsor Castle.

Her pony Emma, mane washed and brushed beautifully over one eye, stood by the side of the road, calmly unmoved by the marching feet of several regiments of soldiers. A few hundred metres further on, two of the Queen's corgis, Sandy and Muick, were waiting on leads, looking expectantly towards the cortege.

The black hearse arrived into Windsor decorated with flowers hurled at the convoy by mourners lining the road during the slow journey from London. The same

hypnotic, trance-inducing march played along Whitehall was picked up again by new musicians, flawlessly choreographed, but there was an instantly different aesthetic. The scarlet uniforms and black bearskins hats of the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards stood out stark against the bright green fields on the approach to the castle.

A peculiarly unfunereal festival atmosphere had been mounting in the 24 hours before the service: the pubs were unusually crowded, souvenir shops were doing brisk business selling postcards with black and white images of the dead Queen and rapidly-manufactured mugs decorated with slightly off-centre pictures of her face and the dates 1926-2022.

Estate agents displayed pictures from the Queen's life. Even the Thai massage parlour on Windsor High Street (Thy Spa) had decorated its shopfront with Union flags. By 8am groundsman in the castle were blowing away any stray leaves, and making final adjustments to the flowers. Outside the castle grounds there seemed to have been a lighter touch approach to removing the town's homeless population from the streets than there was ahead of recent royal weddings. A man with his dog and belongings was left to sleep undisturbed on the pavement outside the Duchess of Cambridge pub, as people passed wearing bowler hats with Union flags.

The Windsor service was a



▲ The then Princess Elizabeth, with her husband, sister, mother and father. All are now buried together

smaller occasion than the state funeral at Westminster Abbey, made up of local friends, staff from her various estates, as well as a few former prime ministers and representatives of foreign royal families who had travelled from London to be at the second of the day's three funeral ceremonies.

As they made their way into the chapel, mourners will have caught a burst of the heady sweet composty smell of thousands of wilting bunches of flowers, carefully arranged in rows, cellophane removed. The bigger, more extravagant bouquets from European royal families were lined up by the entrance, alongside a white wreath from the archbishop of Canterbury, with a handwritten card: "In thankful memory, may Her Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory."

The dean of Windsor, the Right Rev David Conner, paid tribute to the Queen, remembering both her public and private persona, noting the Queen's "kindness, concern and reassuring care for her family and friend and neighbours".

"In the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, her calm and dignified presence has given us confidence to face the future, as she did, with courage and with hope," he said.

The service felt peaceful after the howling of the bagpipes, the blasts of cannons outside. The coffin descended slowly into the royal vault, as the archbishop read psalm 103, ending with the words: "Go forth upon thy journey from this world."

Later, the Queen's closest relatives gathered at 7.30pm in the George VI Memorial chapel, a small bare stone room, for Queen's final stage of the burial. She was laid next to her husband, Prince Philip, and near the remains of her father, George VI, the Queen Mother and her sister, Princess Margaret.





Security Years of planning key to success of operations

Rajeev Syal and Dan Sabbagh

The success of the enormous security operation surrounding the Queen's funeral was the result of decades of intricate planning and heightened public vigilance, a leading counter-terrorism expert has said.

Royalty, world leaders and hundreds of thousands of members of the public were kept safe on Monday, amid heightened concerns over possible attacks.

The scale of the operation surpassed those for the Platinum Jubilee weekend and the London 2012 Olympics, which saw up to 10,000 police officers on duty per day.

Nick Aldworth, formerly the national coordinator for counter-terrorism policing, said the plans for the late Queen's funeral had been discussed in minute detail for decades. "The success behind the scale of this enterprise is from the years of planning," he told the Guardian.

The UK public's heightened awareness of possible terrorist acts, and their willingness to report suspicions, had made central London an ideal venue for a large-scale event, he said: "London, because of what it has experienced, is in many ways an ideal venue because the public are aware of possible dangers."

The UK's terrorism threat level still stands at "substantial", meaning an attack is likely.

Police and security services had expressed concern about the possibility of knife attacks, bombs being

detonated, and many other possible terror threats.

The security services have also been involved in the funeral's planning, while the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure has been responsible for providing expert advice to the director of MI5 and across government.

More than 3,000 officers from almost every force in the country were drafted in to help the police in London. Armed police, motorbike escort riders, mounted patrol officers, dog teams and a marine unit were among the specialist teams involved.

Rooftop snipers were in place while the cortege was moving, accompanied by a helicopter escort anywhere outside of the capital.

So-called lone actor terrorism - in particular knife attacks - are now considered the main threat. But police guarding the new king and senior royals also have to consider the risks posed by people who are fixated with those in the public eye.

Members of the public were urged to report any suspicious behaviour, with security experts describing potential terrorists among the crowds as people who would seem "blatantly out of place" and uninterested in ceremonial events.

By Friday morning, more than 30 arrests had been made as part of the operation, for a range of offences, Cundy said. Since then a man has been charged with a public order offence and is due in court after an alleged disturbance next to the Queen's coffin in Westminster Hall. Another man has appeared in court facing allegations that he sexually assaulted two women who were queueing to attend the lying-in-state.

More than 22 miles of barriers were erected in central London to control crowds and keep key areas secure.

Around 2,300 police officers oversaw the Queen's final journey from Westminster Abbey to Windsor Castle. Around a thousand lined the route, alongside military personnel.

Celebrities Sandra Oh and Bear Grylls among guests

Alexandra Topping

Along with the dignitaries, members of the royal family and heads of state at the Queen's funeral were stars familiar from their roles on television and in public life.

The adventurer Bear Grylls wearing a morning suit, took his place at Westminster Abbey yesterday, representing the Scouts. The TV star was appointed chief scout in 2009 when he was 34, making him the youngest person to hold the post in the UK.

Grylls was made an OBE in 2019 by the Queen, who was patron of the Scout Association. After the Queen's death, he said the scouts were "united in sorrow for the loss of our patron".

The actor Sandra Oh, best known for her roles in Killing Eve and Grey's

Anatomy, attended as part of the Canadian delegation as a member of the Order of Canada.

Another actor, Sophie Winkleman, known for her role in the comedy series Peep Show, also attended, as a member of the royal family.

The 42-year-old is married to Lord Frederick Windsor, the son of the Queen's cousin Prince Michael of Kent. The couple married in September 2009 and Winkleman became entitled to be called Lady Frederick Windsor but continues to use her own name in her acting career.

In the Channel 4 sitcom, Winkleman played Big Suze, the love interest of Robert Webb's character Jeremy. Winkleman is the paternal half-sister of the Strictly Come Dancing presenter Claudia Winkleman.



▲ Sophie Winkleman with Princess Michael and Frederick Windsor



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

No eye contact and no warmth as princes give little sign of any thaw in tensions

Daniel Boffey
Chief reporter

There was no eye contact or acknowledgment between the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Sussex as they walked behind the Queen's coffin. Nor indeed, it appeared, as the two princes were joined by their wives, Catherine and Meghan, in Westminster Abbey.

Prince Harry, wearing a morning suit on to which his medals were pinned rather than a military uniform, the traditional dress permitted of working members of the royal family at ceremonial events, kept his gaze focused ahead during the procession from Westminster Hall to the abbey and later at Windsor Castle.

Walking behind the King, the Princess Royal, Prince Edward and the Duke of York, who also stood out in a morning suit, the brothers were at least side by side, rather than buffered by their cousin, Peter Phillips, as had been the case at the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral in April last year.

But those looking for any hint of a thawing of the froideur that has marked relations between the princes since Harry left the UK and the duties of a working royal to build a new life in California, casting out criticism of his family as he did, were to be disappointed.

Studiously, the two men and their spouses avoided any interaction. Their eyes never met; physically a safe distance was always kept.

As the coffin was taken into the abbey, Harry and Andrew - another royal who stepped back from public life, in his case after an infamous interview with the BBC's Newsnight about his friendship with the sexual abuser Jeffrey Epstein - looked to the ground as other members of the family in military uniform saluted.



▲ The Prince of Wales and Duke of Sussex follow the Queen's coffin en route to St George's chapel

Inside, the Prince and Princess of Wales sat with their eldest two children, Prince George, nine, and Princess Charlotte, seven, while Harry and Meghan took their seats directly behind King Charles and Camilla, the Queen Consort.

There was the occasional assuring glance exchanged between the Sussexes. Earlier they briefly held hands. But, perhaps in response to the peculiar criticism they have received for previous shows of affection at events commemorating the late Queen, there was notably little physical contact.

The Duchess of Sussex, wearing a pair of pearl and diamond studs gifted to her by the Queen which she had worn on her first joint engagement with the monarch in June 2018, when they marked the opening of a new bridge in Cheshire, was visibly emotional at times. With a gloved hand, she dabbed a tear from her cheek as the Queen's coffin left the abbey.

Meghan had not followed the tradition of female members of the royal family wearing a black lace "mourning veil" but the same could be said for Princess Beatrice, the Countess of Wessex and her daughter, Louise Windsor. She instead wore a black cape and dress and a wide-brimmed hat.

On arrival at St George's chapel for the service of committal, William, Catherine, George and Charlotte waited at the head of the front pew to allow Harry and Meghan to pass by, before taking their own places. Again, there was no touch or nod to acknowledge a shared moment. Charlotte sat between her uncle and her mother.

Every effort was being made, it seemed, to avoid distracting from the state funeral and the Queen's interment in the royal vault, below the chapel, alongside her husband, the late Prince Philip. But a rapprochement between the brothers seemed far away.

The task of rebuilding of relations has, no doubt, not been made any easier by the rescinding of an invitation to the Sussexes to a reception attended by world leaders on the eve of the funeral.

Harry's "intimate and heartfelt" memoirs are awaiting publication, while Meghan has said the couple are working on a "historical documentary" through which she will share their "love story".



Prince Harry The royal who wanted to get out, but can never really leave

Hadley Freeman



The actual service was, to be honest, a bit underwhelming, verging on generic. OK, the archbishop of Canterbury and Big Suze from Peep Show - AKA Sophie Winkleman, now married to Lord Freddie Windsor - probably didn't attend your aunt's funeral.

But with a bit of Psalm 23, a splash of Elgar and a sprinkling of Corinthians, it was at times hard to tell the difference between this and any aged relative's remembrance service. Absolutely none of which could be said about the procession to and from the Westminster Abbey, which pummelled even the most sceptical of republicans into a state of respectful awe.

The swaying march of the rainbow-like array of military uniforms, the tiny, totemic body in a casket draped with pageantry, followed by her solemn children and selected grandchildren: this is what history will remember about the Queen's funeral, just as the first image that comes to most people's minds from Diana's funeral is the young princes walking the silent streets of London flanked by their father, grandfather and uncle.

It's been bewildering to watch ex-royals Harry and Meghan act like, well, royals

Many of those same key characters were present yesterday, once again forced to make their private grief public, born into a job that offers no bereavement leave.

Indeed, as Princes William and Harry know better than most, there is no busier and more public-facing time for a royal than a death in the family. Harry recently recalled that during his mother's funeral, his chief feeling was exasperation with the weeping public: "This was my mum - you never even met her."

This time, his frustration was clearly more directed at his family. "That was my military uniform," he surely seethed, now relegated to a morning suit, unlike his brother and father. "You never went on two tours of Afghanistan."

In 1997, Harry and William, then only 12 and 15, were too young to offer each other much comfort, or even share a "God, this is sad

▼ Catherine, with her eldest children Charlotte and George, beside Camilla, Meghan and Beatrice after the service
PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN MEISSNER/AP



Dress code

Resplendent solemnity in black hats, sleek tailoring and pearls

Jess Cartner-Morley

There was not a hair out of place, nor a shoe unpolished. Not one speck of lint on a jacket was to be seen, on a day when only flawlessness would do. For the grandest, most gorgeous of occasions the dress code was resplendent solemnity, in pearls and pillbox hats, high heels and sharp tailoring. For the royal family this was, as the archbishop of Canterbury noted, a portrait of grief under the brightest spotlight. The Queen Consort, the Princess of Wales and the Duchess of Sussex found a little privacy under wide-brimmed hats, or veils, or both. And while Britain was looking at the royal family, the rest of the world was looking at Britain. The frilled white collars of the clergy and the rich scarlet and gold military uniforms contrasted with the simplicity of the black-clad mourners, a reminder that the death of the Queen has put not just the Windsors but the whole notion

of Britishness under the spotlight. It has been a busy 10 days for the milliner Stephen Jones, who after the Queen's death turned his central London store over to selling only black hats in anticipation of funeral orders. "Everyone wanted to be appropriately dressed, not fashionably dressed," said Jones. "Hats were a symbol of Queen Elizabeth's reign, because she herself always wore them." The most popular styles have been discreet black hats, in neutral textures. The arcane rules which decreed that as a non-working royal Prince Harry could not wear military uniform, despite having seen more active service than most of the family, are the kind of thing that makes the monarchy look petty and nonsensical in the eyes of critics. But Harry defused the tension, issuing an advance statement that he would be in a regular suit, and on the day it was Princess Anne, in her white hat and starched gloves, who looked the most dapper in military regalia. At Britain's last state funeral,



▲ Princess Anne, in full Royal Navy ceremonial uniform, looked the most dapper among the working royals

that of Winston Churchill in 1965, mourners came in top hats and mink coats, while Lady Churchill was dramatically submerged beneath yards of black lace. Modernity has done for the full-length veil, with a "birdcage" length which covers the top half of the face preferred this time by Catherine and Camilla. Other modern touches included Carrie Johnson's nod to sustainability in a rented Karen Millen coat dress. Catherine and Meghan were dressed in almost mirror-image harmony, a quiet riposte - or at least, no comment - to salacious interest in the fissure between the Sussexes and the new Waleses. Both women wore saucer-shaped hats; Catherine's softened with a small veil, Meghan's with a wave in the brim. Both chose clean-lined, unfussy tailoring, with Meghan in Stella McCartney and Catherine reworking a favourite Alexander McQueen coat dress. Only the Princess of Wales's showstopper four-row pearl choker and matching bracelet from the late Queen's collection, which rather overshadowed Duchess of Sussex's simple pearl drop earrings, hinted at the discrepancy between their positions. Outside the circle of close mourners there were touches of individual glamour. Jacinda Ardern wore a *kākau*, a traditional Māori cloak made from feathers, a symbol of ritual and prestige in New Zealand. Princess Charlotte's old-fashioned black hat was reminiscent of the boater worn by Madeline Fogg, the 1940s girl protagonist of Ludwig Bemelmans' children's books, while the diamond horseshoe brooch on her coat made reference to a love of horses she shared with her great-grandmother.



▲ Princes Harry and Andrew, minus military regalia; right, Meghan during the service at Westminster Abbey
PHOTOGRAPHS: TOBY MELVILLE/REUTERS; TIM ROOKE/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



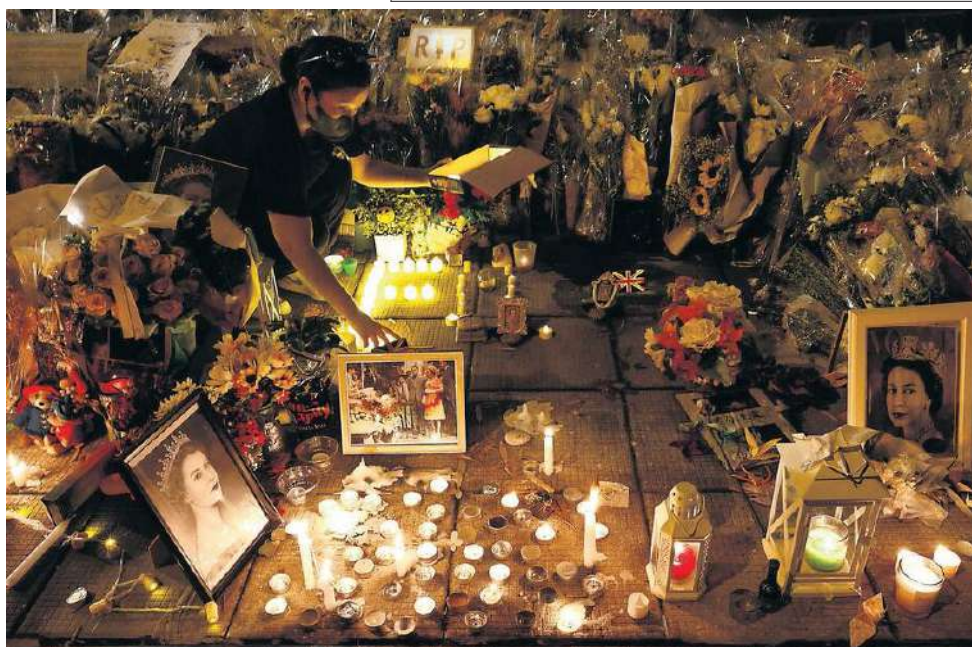
and *incredibly weird*" glance as they walked behind their mother's casket. Now, alas, they are too embroiled in royal tradition and personal bitterness. The first march during the Queen's funeral, from the Palace of Westminster to Westminster Abbey, set the scene, with the non-working royals - Prince Andrew and Harry - glaringly stripped of their military garb. Harry has given many reasons for his decision to leave Britain and move his family to California. One he hasn't said, but would be more than understandable, is that he looked at his uncle Andrew, who was apparently so bored in his life as a spare that hanging around with a convicted sex criminal seemed like a good idea, and he thought: "Nah, not for me." But as with the mafia, you can never really leave the royals. As he walked behind his dreaded uncle, the two of them in matching morning suits, Harry must have thought: "All I did was move to Montecito. Do I really need to be grouped with this guy?" Only the most deranged monarchist would not feel some sympathy for Harry and Meghan

and the coldness they endured from his family. No one ever confused the Windsors with the Waltons. But one can also feel that Harry has been - how to put this - a little deluded about the situation. It was reported over the weekend that he told a friend: "People need to stop talking about this stuff and focus on my grandmother." This Harry must be absolutely livid with the Harry who has given multiple interviews about his grievances with his family, including a wildly high-profile one with Oprah Winfrey, written a soon-to-be published memoir that presumably retreads that ground, and is working on a documentary for Netflix about his life since leaving the royal family. Who could blame a man once made to march behind his mother's coffin for wanting to opt out of the royal business? So it's been a little bewildering to watch Harry and Meghan in California act like, well, royals, with their photocalls on Remembrance Sunday (from, er, Los Angeles) and their various speeches at the United Nations. Harry has looked like the human embodiment of Britain mid-Brexit, leaving the organisation

and then expressing outrage that he can't enjoy the privileges of belonging to it. It is true that Meghan was abominably treated by some elements of the British media. It is also true that she probably shouldn't repeat dubious comparisons of herself to Nelson Mandela, as she did in a recent interview. Being the victim in one situation does not make you a saint. You can still be a bit of a numpty. Does Harry ever wonder if he successfully made the point he was trying to make to his family? Towards the end of the Queen's funeral, it looked like he might. As he got up from his seat and moved to the aisle, he looked towards his brother and seemed to be seeking eye contact. He didn't get it. A stern-faced William walked right in front of him, and Harry took a further step back to make room for William's children. Because that's what he was born to do, and he can never escape it, even if he moves halfway across the world. And then the brothers marched forth, behind another dead woman they both loved, next to each other, and ignoring each other.



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II



'Turning of a page'

How the events in London were seen around the world

Melbourne

As the doors to Westminster Abbey opened to allow guests to take their seats, on the other side of the world, Australians sat down to watch the historic event on TV. British-themed pubs in the central business district of Melbourne were largely empty as they broadcast the funeral on big screens.

Rick Tonk, from West Yorkshire, was watching at the Charles Dickens Tavern with his parents. "We'll spend some time here just taking in the atmosphere and we'll be able to say goodbye," Tonk said. "It's been very solemn, for a lot of people around the world. They'll be watching."

He said it had been strange to be so far away from home as such a historic moment unfolded, and while the Queen's death was not a complete shock, it still felt as if it had come out of nowhere.

"It's really the turning of a page, the dawning of a new age - just saying goodbye to the one person who has been our monarch for so long," Tonk said.

The tavern's owner, John Davie, said the coverage leading up to the funeral had "watered down" interest in Australia. "The coverage it's had leading up to probably the most important day of the lot, it's probably not done it a service," Davie said. "Whereas in the UK people are queueing for days to pay respects. I think people here are just a little bit burnt out."

The pubs might have been quiet but Australians - both monarchists and republicans - tuned in to watch. Some just wanted to "watch the historic moment" while others marvelled at the ceremony.

Jennifer Furphy, 68, a priest at St Agnes Black Rock, led her congregation in prayer for the Queen, read out snippets from her Christmas speeches and talked about what her death meant.

"We talked about how we really wanted to honour her memory and her Christian faith, and how she had lived a life of service to her country and the Commonwealth," Furphy said. "Parishioners here are migrants from England, they have family there and real connections with the culture. I think it was important to honour that."

Cait Kelly

Paris

The French republic has shown remarkable interest in the death and funeral of Queen Elizabeth II over the past 11 days.

Emmanuel Macron paid an emotional and respectful tribute to the British monarch, saying that for the French she was simply "the" Queen, and tweeted a black and white film of Elizabeth at the Élysée and with successive presidents, with the simple message: "Thank you, Your Majesty." The film began with the Queen wishing long friendship between the two countries.

TF1, one of the main French TV channels, broadcast a special edition called *L'Adieu* covering the entire funeral with solemn French translation and a British commentator, who admitted singing God Save the King in the studio when it was sung in Westminster Abbey. The channel had several reporters along the route of the procession.

The Paris métro station George V was temporarily renamed Elizabeth II 1926-2022.

Many people in France felt the French reaction to the Queen's death laid to rest the question that Liz Truss, the UK prime minister, seemed incapable of answering: is Macron "friend or foe".

Peter Ricketts, a former British ambassador to Paris, was on French television saying Truss had made a "serious error". "It's time to rectify this and confirm that we are friends and allies," he said.

Several national and local newspapers once again devoted



▲ People watching the funeral at the Burgundy Lion pub in Montreal

their front pages to the royal farewell. The headline in *Le Parisien* was "Elizabeth II: the funeral of the century". The newspaper said: "The whole world looks to London today where the funeral of the Queen will be held."

Some expressed clear admiration on British phlegmaticness and the ability to queue patiently for long periods. **Kim Willsher**

New York

It has been almost 250 years since the US announced its independence from the British monarchy, but in New York City yesterday morning there was plenty to suggest that some affection remains.

A mix of American royal family enthusiasts, flag-bearing British tourists and scurrying local TV journalists filled the Churchill Tavern, a British bar a few blocks south of the Empire State Building, to watch the Queen's funeral, the crowd observing an hour of hushed silence as the late monarch was sent on her way.

Despite the early hour - the Churchill opened at 5.30am - seating was in short supply, with standing room only as people continued to arrive. Mourners were welcomed by a lifesize Beefeater figurine outside, and a sombre, respectful atmosphere.

"I don't think I've ever seen the bar quiet for an hour and 10 minutes before, ever - nor would

► The George V métro station in Paris was temporarily renamed Elizabeth II 1926-2022 yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHE PETIT-TESSON/EPA

you ever really want it to be - but there was something quite surreal about that, and very respectful, and deeply moving, actually," said Sinead Naughton, an Irish woman who owns the Churchill with her British husband.

Some of those present had dressed for the occasion, including Jean Shafiroff, who was sporting a large black hat. Shafiroff, an American who serves on the board of several charities, said she had met Prince Harry in 2019 at a charity event in London. She attended Margaret Thatcher's funeral in 2013, but said "the Queen's funeral is a harder invitation to procure".

She said: "Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth II was a great role model for all people around the world. Her 70 years of service was extraordinary. We need more role models such as she." **Adam Gabbatt**

Kenya

Queen Elizabeth II's funeral was met by a fairly muted response in Kenya, a stark contrast to the flurry of reactions that followed news of her death, which elicited both mourning and anger in the east African country.

Kenya's president, William Ruto, joined other world leaders in attending the Queen's funeral, and



◀ Left to right: a shrine to the Queen outside the British consulate - general in Hong Kong; a family in Kenya watch television coverage of the funeral at home in Nairobi; people watching the funeral service on a public screen in Federation Square in Melbourne, Australia

PHOTOGRAPHS: TYRONE SIU/REUTERS; BRIAN INGANGA/AP; ASANKA RATNAYAKE/GETTY IMAGES

the service was streamed on major news networks. But while her sending-off seized the attention of much of the world, it did not garner much national interest. On the streets and online, it was mostly business as usual.

Britain's longest-reigning monarch became Queen in Kenya after she received news of her father's death while on royal tour with her husband, Prince Philip. Some Kenyans remember the Queen's "fairytale" first visit fondly.

"It's the end of an era," said Paul Ochieng, 49. "We grew up watching the Queen, and she became Queen here, so there's a bit of a soft spot for her."

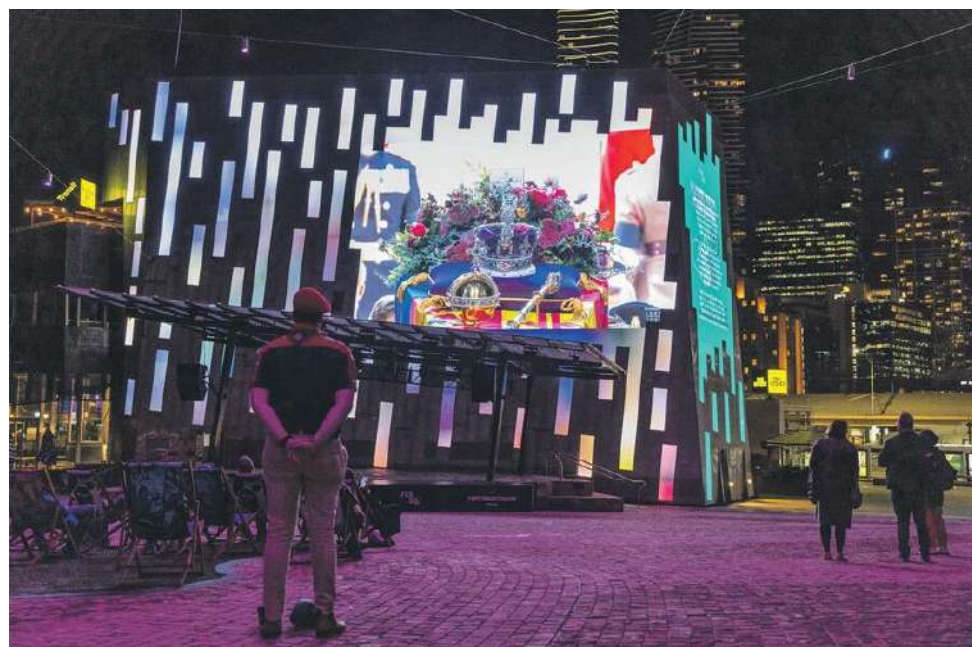
But for others, she was a painful reminder of Britain's brutal colonial past, when nearly 1.5 million Kenyans were forced into detention camps and subjected to torture and other atrocities in the 1950s during the British empire's crackdown on the Mau Mau - Kenyan freedom fighters who opposed colonial rule. The violent suppression of the Mau Mau took place at the start of Elizabeth's reign, and many of the crimes were committed in her name. Faced with legal pressure, the UK government agreed, in 2013, to pay £20m pounds to Kenyan torture victims.

"We are being gaslit to mourn someone who watched over our collective suffering," said Suhayl Omar, 24, a Kenyan researcher with the Museum of British Colonialism. "The fact that Kenyan leaders saw it fit to declare national mourning is an indication of the continued cycle of colonial violence that we continue to face." **Caroline Kimeu**

India

Just as response to the death of the Queen was muted in India, there was little commotion around her funeral. Unlike other countries in south Asia that sent their heads of government to attend the funeral, India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, did not attend, and instead the ceremonial head of state, President Droupadi Murmu, travelled to the UK. The funeral

◀ People offering flower petals in front of a picture of the Queen near the Victoria Memorial in Kolkata, India PHOTOGRAPH: PIYAL ADHIKARY/EPA



was not broadcast on any Indian networks and there were no public screenings.

However, some watched it online at home. Alexander Balakrishnan, 24, a student in Delhi, who was born in the UK but moved back to India when he was four, said the British monarchy remained a divisive institution in India. "I think 50% of people see the royal family as just a symbol of the empire; they think we are done with them, there's no patriotism or connection left to them in India," he said. "The other 50% see them as ultra-celebrities. So some people here are mourning the Queen as the most famous person in the world."

The muted response to the Queen's funeral in India was in part due to this complex legacy, said Balakrishnan, but he believed it also had more cultural factors.

"I think one of the reasons there has been so little response to the funeral here is because people in India are so used to getting funerals done so quickly," he said. "It's either the same day or the next day, so this idea that it's 10 days later is hard for people to relate to."

Jamaica

Bishop Herro Blair of Jamaica, who met the Queen twice, woke up at 3.30am yesterday to make sure he did not miss a minute of her final send-off.

"I was touched by the sombreness of the moment," the 76-year-old said by phone from Kingston. "It didn't matter who it was from, whatever country it was, everybody was so dignified. Everybody paid homage, everybody honoured her the way she should be honoured."

The Queen ascended to the throne in 1952, a decade before Jamaica gained independence from Britain. Many on the Caribbean island now want to sever ties with the monarchy. Given that Jamaica's time zone is six hours behind the UK, the state funeral was mainly a draw for early birds and diehard royalists.

Carrol Richards, a spiritual life coach, noted that many associate the royal family with British colonialism and slavery. She said: "There are lot of people who are still disappointed - and disappointment goes to varying

degrees of anger - with what they felt the Queen stood for and what they felt she should have stood for. People like that would probably not even look at the funeral."

Mikael Phillips, 50, an opposition member of parliament who in 2020 filed a motion backing the removal of the monarch, said: "It was an excellent send-off for someone who has served all her life as a Queen and as a mother. It was done with precision and fitting for the life that she lived."

"But in my mind I wondered what it would have been like if we had taken that step towards republicanism and what does the future hold for us? It's the end of an era for us as a country, the Commonwealth and for the British people, just considering what does the future hold and what approach the new king will take towards what is ahead of him." **David Smith**

Solomon Islands

Residents of Solomon Islands with TV sets paid their final respects to its head of state, watching events in London and Windsor from the former British protectorate in the Pacific. While some people went out for their usual social activities and to enjoy the sea breeze, big screens were also set up at the Anglican church compound in Honiara, the capital, for its members to pay their respects and others went to the Pacific Casino - a well-known venue in the city.

One of those watching was Connie Grouse, 67, who was working for the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation during the country's independence in 1978. "As someone who grew up when the queen started to reign, this is very emotional for me because I sat tonight reminiscing about my younger days, as I have high respect for the Queen," she said. "I am very happy that I get to witness the funeral procession of our head of state and I'm glad that I get to see this historic moment"

Timothy Asi, 40, also described the funeral service as a historic event. "Today is a day that I earmark as a day that will go down in history for me," he said. "When I grow old, I will sit back and gladly tell stories about the funeral to my future grandchildren."

Georgina Maka'a





Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II



◀ King Charles, the Princess Royal, Harry and William and other members of the royal family pay their respects

PHOTO: HANNAH MCKAY/REUTERS

Television review

The end of an era, meticulously managed, undeniably moving

Queen Elizabeth II funeral TV coverage

Lucy Mangan

Here we are, then. It is not often you can say you witnessed the end of an era. But by definition, the second Elizabethan age is over. The catafalque gives way to carriage, medieval hall to medieval chapel, public service to private rest.

Manufactured controversy-froth (celebrity queue-jumping, holiday camps turfing guests out for the day, whether Harry could wear uniform, whether Paddington iconography could be grafted on to the pageantry of centuries) has dispersed and reality has emerged. A reality minutely managed and meticulously planned for, but here nevertheless.

If it's not your sort of thing, Channel 4 has programming about the royal gardens - and if it's really not your sort of thing then, over on Channel 5, The Emoji Movie awaits.

The BBC, meanwhile, is filling the unforgiving minutes before the funeral proper begins with Huw Edwards interviewing talking heads. They range from the polished professional (Sebastian Coe, Gyles Brandreth) to the overwhelmed and genuinely moving (Dame Kelly Holmes) via the irreducibly egotistical (Andrew Lloyd Webber, who tells us his Requiem was performed in Westminster Abbey).

On ITV, they lean more on vox pops, Jennie Bond, footage of horses waiting at

Hyde Park barracks, and shots of the thousands - including a resplendent pearly king and queen - who line the route.

The abbey fills up with the great and good and Boris Johnson. The coffin is transferred to the state gun carriage and - oh England, my England - pulled by 142 naval ratings to the abbey.

Once the funeral procession proper begins there is, wisely, virtually no commentary from the BBC (a bit more from ITV) until after the service. The readings go very well until we hit Liz Truss, who looks and sounds as if she has recently been hit with a studded bat. The archbishop of Canterbury gives either a deeply platitudinous sermon about basic Christian principles or a good kicking to about half the congregation, depending how much you read into a line about those "clinging to service" and who will and won't be remembered after they die.

The pomp, the circumstance, the pageantry: of course these are extreme, they are unique, they are to many absurd. But as you watch, the set-dressing falls away and the commonality remains. There are fewer hats at a commoner's funeral, but the faces beneath them - pressed lips, supportive smiles - are the same. The moment of disbelief when the coffin arrives evokes the disbelief we have all felt at funerals when the late loved one is brought

in. "Really? No more?" No more. You get through the readings, whether by heads of the church or the local vicar, but the music - from a CD or a lone piper - undoes you.

The last post and reveille are played and the funeral procession sets off to Wellington Arch, and from there, St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. The committal service by the dean of Windsor is the last televised part. The Queen will be buried beside her husband, parents and sister. The family are to hold their own service at 7pm, after the cameras have gone.

You could - and apologies if this errs too close to the unforgivably maudlin - see the Queen's death as a last act of service to the country. Because, with many others around the world, we are a grieving nation. We have had two years of loved ones dying unnatural deaths. They often died alone, and we have gone without many of the rituals and comforts needed to help us mourn and heal. Including the Queen herself, who sat - as Covid protocol dictated - alone at Prince Philip's funeral, and whose image became a study in contrast to photographs of the government disobeying every lockdown law. Her funeral was an opportunity to relieve stymied sorrows and shed tears for everyone and everything we lost.

It was - as the odd but accurate phrase has it - a good funeral. Not least because it was in recognition of a genuine good. There was no painful searching for euphemism, no careful elisions to be negotiated. Everything in her life became her like the leaving of it. Whatever doubts you may entertain about the institution, it is hard to deny that Elizabeth II was the best of it. God help, in these fractious and fragmenting times, the King.

The pressed lips and supportive smiles were familiar



Dimbleby legacy Veteran broadcaster echoes father

The veteran broadcaster David Dimbleby commentated on the BBC's coverage of the Queen's committal at Windsor Castle, in an echo of his father 70 years ago.

As the procession made the mile journey to St George's chapel, Dimbleby calmly and clearly described the "extraordinary scenes" that unfolded over the past few days, including the understandable restlessness of the horses moving at the slow place.

In doing so, Dimbleby found himself following in the footsteps of his father, Richard Dimbleby, who provided commentary for the Queen's coronation 69 years ago, and the funeral of her father, George VI, in 1952.

Richard Dimbleby was known for the precision and poetry of the descriptions he gave his radio audience: "Never safer, better guarded, lay a sleeping king than this, with a golden candlelight to warm his resting place, and the muffled footsteps of his devoted subjects to keep him company," he said in February 1952, when the

coffin of George VI lay in state. He was the BBC's lead commentator on other funerals, including that of Winston Churchill, Britain's last state funeral, and John F Kennedy.

Many praised the BBC for the decision to bring David Dimbleby out of retirement for the Queen's funeral. "Something so reassuring about hearing David Dimbleby on the BBC," tweeted Jono Read, who works for the BBC.

The BBC Radio 2 presenter Bob Harris tweeted that he still remembered Richard Dimbleby's "calm and peerless description" of the Queen's coronation. Vivian Ho



▲ David Dimbleby came back from retirement to cover the committal

▼ *The hearse carrying the coffin of Queen Elizabeth II was covered in flowers as it arrived at Windsor*

PHOTOGRAPH: AARON CHOWN/PA



Military Thousands of personnel play role in manoeuvres

Dan Sabbagh

Defence and security editor

Four thousand military personnel from the UK and Commonwealth countries were involved in the Queen's funeral and parade yesterday, the most prominent ceremonial display by the UK armed forces since the death of George VI.

The most delicate task fell to eight soldiers from the Queen's Company, 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, who first had to lift the coffin with precision from its resting place at Westminster Hall and transfer it to the gun carriage.

Minutes later, they had to raise the coffin from the carriage outside Westminster Abbey, elevating it to

their shoulders and bearing it into the heart of the ancient church.

But the most exacting task came in the afternoon, when the bearer party had to carry the coffin up three short flights of steps to enter St George's chapel in Windsor, aided by a single steadying hand from a ninth soldier at the rear, the closest to a moment of tension on a day when events unfolded as timetabled.

The Ministry of Defence said it was not releasing the names of those entrusted to bear the coffin, although they were drawn from the company that has specific duties for protecting the body of the monarch in both life and death. At some point in the future, King Charles will order a change of the unit's name.

During the Queen's procession 142 naval ratings – junior sailors – and six officers had the task of pulling and steadying the coffin by a system of white ropes while it was atop the 300kg gun carriage, for the journey to the abbey and beyond towards

142

Number of naval ratings assigned to pull and steady the Queen's coffin atop the gun carriage

Buckingham Palace, marching at 75 paces to the minute.

Sailors drawn from naval bases around the UK have had the task of pulling the gun carriage ever since Queen Victoria's funeral in 1901. On that occasion panicking horses threatened to topple the coffin, prompting a prince to suggest to King Edward VII that sailors take on the task instead. The successful improvisation of that day stuck.

A total of 1,500 British personnel took part in the procession from the abbey to Constitution Hill, although it was led by Royal Canadian Mounted Police and 175 soldiers from New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

Among those marching were Sir Tony Radakin, the chief of defence staff, and the country's three service chiefs. "Our role," the head of the armed forces said last week, is "in offering reassurance and stability", highlighting that the change of monarch had come only two days after the arrival of a new prime minister.

Three thousand military personnel were involved in the ceremonies in London, including 1,000 lining the routes and 380 in providing guards of honour or other bands. A further 1,000 were involved in receiving the Queen's coffin at Windsor.

The objectors 'An anachronistic and undemocratic facade'

**Clea Skopeliti
Jedidajah Otte**

Millions of people watched the coverage of the Queen's funeral, but many gave it a miss. Here four people explain why they chose not to follow the proceedings.

'I have to work'

Like most hospitality staff, I wasn't able to mark this occasion. I'm in a kitchen, feeding burgers to the mourning British people. I think I would watch if I could – I'm in no way a massive monarchist, but it's a historic occasion and there's an element of respect to someone who gave a lifetime of service.

Today you can't buy a loaf of bread in some supermarkets, but you can order a Jägerbomb. We don't get double pay or a day in lieu. It feels wrong to be open and not get the opportunity to join in on the historic occasion when it's a national day of mourning. It feels like you're excluded.

Melanie, 50, gastropub chef, Lancashire

'We're being gaslit'

I'm not watching it in any way, shape or form. I'm avoiding any more of this anachronistic and undemocratic facade. I'm at work – we're very busy right now. We've all had to bring in packed lunches because Tesco is closed.

It feels like we're being gaslit into caring. There's a time to grieve, but the fact that the next king goes straight into power – this should be the time to talk about it and the future of the monarchy. I'm not disrespectful to the Queen, but as

a system it seems so out of time. We're in thrall to the status quo.

David Weaver, 36, concert promoter, Glasgow

'I don't think of myself as a subject'

I'm not going near a TV or radio for the duration. I'm working outside on our smallholding. Personally, I was incensed when Charles Windsor, in his first address as monarch, gave the title 'Prince of Wales' to his son William. I don't think of myself as a 'subject', just an ordinary citizen living in Wales. I would have liked to contribute to decisions about those who use the name of the nation I live in.

I don't feel it's right that somebody should impose on the people of Wales such an unearned title. 'Prince of Wales' should be held by someone for perhaps five years before someone else is elected. That would be respectful.

Ian, retired headteacher, Machynlleth, Wales

'This mourning period is excessive'

I was interested in the funeral as a street event, but the fact this all has been going on for so long has changed my mind. I'm staying in the garden and plan to see the headlines on the news. It occurred to me that the monarchy can only exist if we believe in it, and I feel I'm being coerced into believing King Charles to be a superior human being. Any sensible person knows we are all equal.

I think the mourning period should have been three days maximum. The fact that it has been this excessive has probably turned me into a republican.

Helen Greaves, 62, writer, London

Republicans Silence on day of funeral – but plans for future

Alexandra Topping

Campaigning republicans remained largely silent for the day of the Queen's funeral, but assured those who did not take part in national mourning that "they were not alone".

The campaign group Republic said it had not organised any events around the day of the Queen's funeral as it would not have been appropriate, but promised a series of campaign events and protests at forthcoming royal events, including the investiture of the Prince of Wales and the coronation of King Charles.

"This isn't the whole country mourning, and I think it's worth reassuring republicans of that," said Republic's Graham Smith. "The number of republicans has gone up in

recent years, from one in five to one in four, while support for the monarchy has dropped from 75% to 60%."

This week YouGov polling showed a surge in support for King Charles since his mother's death, with 63% of people saying he would do a "good job". But a recent survey by the National Centre for Social Research found that the core group who believed the monarchy was "very or quite important" was down to 55%.

Dissent among republicans on social media was sparse yesterday, but some, such as the barrister Charlotte Proudman, said that while she thought everyone had the right to mourn, she thought the blanket coverage lacked balance. "The news is not impartial. We should use state money to fund an underfunded justice system, to support the homeless and those who can't eat or heat their homes, not millions on a state funeral of a monarch who was not democratically elected."

But even some nominal republicans, such as the writer Laurie Penny, decided they wanted to watch the proceedings, having written about joining the queue over the weekend. "Mourning rituals matter, and this country has had a lot to mourn for a long time," she said.



Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II



▼ **London**
Queen Elizabeth's coffin is carried out of Westminster Abbey after her state funeral service yesterday
PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID LEVENE/THE GUARDIAN



National

Leicester arrests raise concerns of outsiders joining religious clashes

Rajeev Syal
Aina J Khan
Geneva Abdul

Almost half of the 18 people arrested after the violence between Hindu and Muslim communities in Leicester over the weekend came from outside the county, the Guardian has learned.

Concerns that outsiders have stirred up trouble in the city have heightened as it was discovered eight of those arrested were not from Leicestershire. Five came from Birmingham, one from Solihull, one from Luton and one gave an address in Hounslow, west London.

Sir Peter Soulsby, the city's mayor, said it appeared to be the first evidence that people were travelling into Leicester looking to take part in the clashes.

"It does suggest that there are people with other battles to fight who are coming to Leicester to fight them. It's distressing that they choose to do it in our city. We pride ourselves on good relations between communities," Soulsby said.

"I have talked to many people across the communities since this trouble began, and they are utterly baffled by this. It does not represent anything that is simmering in Leicester, and does seem to have more to do with subcontinental politics."

There was a tense standoff between groups of Muslim and Hindu men and the police on Saturday evening. Sunday's demonstration was in response to an unplanned protest by Hindu men, who marched through the city on Saturday.

The febrile atmosphere has been aggravated by videos circulating online over the weekend showing a man pulling down a flag outside a Hindu temple on Melton Road and another video of a flag being burned.

The Indian high commission released a statement on Twitter

strongly condemning "the violence perpetrated against the Indian community in Leicester, and vandalism of premises and symbols of Hindu religion". It added: "We have strongly taken up this matter with the UK authorities and have sought immediate action against those involved in these attacks."

Earlier yesterday, Soulsby told BBC Radio 4's Today programme that social media was exacerbating the tensions and there was "no obvious local cause" for such clashes in "an otherwise very peaceful city".

"I've seen quite a selection of the social media stuff which is very distorting now and some of it just completely lying about what had been happening between different communities," he said.

Dharmesh Lakhani, who works with Hindu temples across Leicester, confirmed that one flag outside the Shivalaya temple in Belgrave Road had been removed while the other was burned, describing it as "unacceptable".

Of the incident, Lakhani said: "I'm really proud to say on that day, when the flag was removed, there was an imam outside. He said I'm standing outside the *mandir* [temple], making sure nothing happens."

Lakhani, who has also been working with mosques and local Muslim leaders, urged for calm and dialogue on both sides, in a city he said had long been a sanctuary for Hindu and Muslim communities who had lived side by side for decades.

Several arrests have been made over the past few weeks, and a large number of people were searched under section 60 stop-and-search powers, police said.

On Saturday, a group of Hindu men were filmed marching through Green Lane Road, where there are several Muslim-owned businesses and a Hindu temple close by.

Videos circulating on social media showed hundreds of men wearing masks and balaclavas, chanting: "Jai Shri Ram", Hindi for "hail Lord Ram" or "victory to Lord Ram," a chant that has become synonymous with anti-Muslim violence in India.

Yasmin Surti, who has worked in Leicester for 30 years, said questions needed to be asked about why police had allowed the group to march through the city, as it made many in the local Muslim community feel unsafe.



◀ Molly Russell, who was 14, killed herself in 2017 after viewing a large amount of online material linked to anxiety and self-harm. Her family have set up a charity in her memory, the Molly Rose Foundation, aimed at helping support young people who may be at risk of suicide

PHOTOGRAPH: PA

Social media executives to appear at inquest into girl's death

Dan Milmo
Global technology editor

The inquest into the death of the teenager Molly Russell, who killed herself after viewing graphic content online, opens today, with executives at Instagram's parent company and Pinterest among the witnesses scheduled to appear.

Molly, 14, from Harrow, north-west London, viewed a large amount of online material, including some linked to anxiety, depression, self-harm and suicide, in the months before she died in November 2017.

Her father, Ian Russell, has become a campaigner for regulating social media in order to better shield young people from damaging content.

The inquest has been delayed several times owing to legal and procedural issues, including requests from Instagram's owner, Meta, to redact content to protect the privacy of users.

The hearing will be attended in person by witnesses from Meta and Pinterest after the senior coroner, Andrew Walker, said in a pre-hearing this month that appearing by video link could create difficulties in viewing evidence at the same time.

Meta's head of health and well-being policy, Elizabeth Lagone, and Jud Hoffman, the head of community operations at Pinterest - both based in the US - are due to give evidence at the inquest at Barnet coroner's court.

Lawyers representing Pinterest and Meta - which also owns Facebook and WhatsApp - had argued that Lagone and Hoffman could give evidence remotely at the two-week inquest, citing issues including full work schedules and Covid safety.

Meta has uncovered 12,576 pieces of Instagram content seen by Molly in the six months before her death, while she had more than 15,000 engagements on Pinterest, including 3,000 saves, in the last six months of her life. During this period Molly was engaging with Instagram posts about 130 times a day on average. This included 3,500 shares during

that timeframe, as well as 11,000 likes and 5,000 saves.

Meta will not be required to name the handles of anonymous Instagram accounts viewed by Russell, after the company produced guidance from the UK data watchdog stating that revealing such details would breach data laws. Meta added that it was concerned about the "potential identification of vulnerable Instagram users".

The inquest is taking place against a backdrop of regulatory change for social media companies in the UK. The online safety bill, whose progress through parliament has been paused, imposes a duty of care on tech firms to protect users from harmful content. The duty of care includes ensuring children are not exposed to harmful or inappropriate content.

The prime minister, Liz Truss, has confirmed that the bill will go ahead, saying the government wants to ensure that under-18s are protected from harm but also "make sure free speech is allowed".

The new safety regime will be overseen by the communications regulator, Ofcom, which will have the power to impose fines of up to £18m or 10% of global turnover.

Samaritans can be contacted on freephone 116 123



▲ Police blocking a group of Muslim marchers in Leicester on Sunday

Seeds of discontent
Will Truss trample on
rewilding schemes?
Page 28

Dawn French is a hit
Masterful self-mockery
of career in comedy
Page 31



Eyes in the sky: citizen scientists boost Antarctic seal count

Eva Corlett

Researchers believe they have accurately estimated Antarctica's Weddell seal population for the first time - using images from space and the eyes of hundreds of thousands of citizen scientists.

Weddell seals are a key indicator species in the Southern Ocean, for both sea ice fluctuations and shifts in the food web. They can live up to 30 years in the harsh conditions of the coastal sea ice of Antarctica, but until recently counting them has been risky and prohibitively expensive.

Previous estimates of their population were "more back-of-the-envelope type calculations", said Dr Michelle LaRue, associate professor of Gateway Antarctica at New Zealand's University of Canterbury.

"The previous research was done by traditional surveyors - shipboard and aerial - but you can't physically get to the entire Antarctic continent all at one time," she said.

The results were "imprecise", so in 2016 LaRue set out to create the first estimate of the seals' baseline



population, using high-resolution satellite imagery and the keen eyes of 330,000 curious volunteers.

"We combined [the] imagery with a web platform to conduct a citizen science campaign to find out three things: where seals are present, their abundance, and the environmental factors that influence their habitat preferences," LaRue said.

They discovered that, at the time the satellite images were taken in 2011, the global population was actually just 40% of the 800,000 animals previously estimated.

The study, published in late 2021,

'We combined images with a web platform to conduct a citizen science campaign'

Dr Michelle LaRue
Gateway Antarctica

estimated that there were about 202,000 sub-adult and adult female Weddell seals in Antarctica.

Male seals were generally not captured in the satellite images because they were typically under the ice, guarding their territories, LaRue added.

The lower numbers were a reflection of the previous poor surveying techniques rather than an alarming drop in the population, she said, adding that some indications of decline could be linked to changes occurring in the food chain.

The study also found that Weddell seals lived on about 1% of the ice and were picky about where they settled: they stayed clear of Adélie penguins, but could handle being neighbours with Emperor penguins, as long as their colony was not too big.

The project relied heavily on volunteers to search the satellite images for signs of seals. Participants were given images of an area in Antarctica to scour and asked to tick a box saying if they believed they could see a

▲ *A Weddell seal mother and pup in Antarctica. Populations were counted by scanning satellite images*
PHOTOGRAPH: UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY

seal or not. The more people to click yes, the more efficient the narrowing down of habitats became.

"It is a consensus-based algorithm - the more people who agree that they see a seal or don't see a seal, the more likely it is that that's true," LaRue said.

The method is now being used by other scientists at the British Antarctic Survey to help determine the population of walrus in the Arctic, she said.

Looking at broader ecosystems and the relationships between animals and their environment was important in the long run, LaRue said, but to do that, it was helpful to have population guides for single species.

Once scientists have that information, they "can start adding it all together and putting together the puzzle a little bit better".

EU 'wasting 153m tonnes of food a year' - 15m more than it imports

Arthur Neslen

The EU wastes more food than it imports and could puncture food price inflation by simply curbing on-farm waste, according to a report.

About 153m tonnes of food in the EU are frittered away every year, double previous estimates and 15m tonnes more than is shipped in, according to the study's estimates.

The amount of wheat wasted in the EU alone is equal to roughly half of Ukraine's wheat exports, and a quarter of its other grain exports.

Frank Mechielsen, the director of Feedback EU, which produced the study, said: "At a time of high food prices and a cost of living crisis, it's a scandal that the EU is potentially throwing away more food than it's importing. The EU now has a massive opportunity to set legally binding targets to halve its food waste from farm to fork by 2030 to tackle climate change and improve food security."

Global food prices last month were 8% higher than a year ago, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), partly driven by the war in Ukraine. Wheat, maize and soya bean prices have this year even overshoot records set at the height of the 2008 world financial crisis.

Abdolreza Abbassian, a grain market analyst and former senior FAO economist, said that the era of cheap food was now over and prices would probably remain high, even after the Russia-Ukraine war has ended.

"Because of the energy situation, the fertiliser situation, uncertainties in the world, including in transport and shipments, not to mention climate change we have to accept that we are not going to see food prices at the levels of a decade ago, that we had become used to," he said.

Brussels is expected to put forward a proposal this year for the world's first legally enforceable goals to curb food waste. Forty-three green non-profits have backed Feedback EU's call for a 50% drop in waste by 2030.

The report says about 90m tonnes of food are wasted during primary production - three times more than household waste. Most of this is probably unrecorded, as EU data tends to exclude food left unharvested, unused or unsold on farms.

90m

Tonnes of food wasted on EU farms by being left unharvested, unused or unsold, according to the report

Crash, bang, crater: new scars from space rocks found on Mars

Ian Sample
Science editor

Researchers have located fresh craters on Mars from the shock waves unleashed by lumps of space rock as they tear through the sky and slam into the ground.

The new scars on the planet's face are the first impact craters ever traced from the bang and crash of meteoroids bombarding another planet.

The findings will help scientists build a more accurate picture of how often Mars is battered by the solar

system's rocky detritus and refine their understanding of the internal structure of our planetary neighbour.

"This is the first time we have felt and heard an impact on another planet," said Prof Raphaël Garcia, a planetary seismologist at the Higher Institute of Aeronautics and Space at the University of Toulouse.

The researchers examined seismic waves recorded by Nasa's InSight lander between May 2020 and September 2021. It touched down in the barren Elysium Planitia in November 2018 to investigate Mars's structure, crust and impact activity.

Scientists expected InSight to detect between one and 100 impacts every five Earth years using a seismometer on the Martian surface. Four impacts were explored in detail.

By knowing how fast acoustic and seismic waves travel through Martian air and rock, the team estimated how far away from InSight the meteoroids struck. They then worked out the direction.

The bang on impact sends acoustic waves racing over the surface in all directions. These deform the ground imperceptibly, but the team picked up the direction of the impact from the slight tilt in the seismometer as the acoustic wave swept over.

The scientists predicted roughly where the meteoroids crashed. They then turned to images taken by Nasa's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter. Before

and after pictures revealed fresh craters close to the expected sites.

One meteoroid reached Mars on 5 September 2021 and unleashed three stark shock waves. The first came when it slammed into the Martian atmosphere at about 10 kilometres a second. The space rock then exploded at an altitude of 13km and 16km, producing multiple fragments. These thumped into the ground creating a cluster of fresh craters.

The data is enormously valuable for planetary scientists studying the structure of Mars's crust but impact craters are also cosmic clocks, with older surfaces pocked with more craters. "If people want to know if a surface is older or younger, it is critical to know the impact rate, but we are not there yet," said Garcia. Details are published in Nature Geoscience.

Energy-saving measures in UK homes 'could boost economy by £7bn a year'

Fiona Harvey

Environment correspondent

Insulating homes in Britain and installing heat pumps could benefit the economy by £7bn a year and create 140,000 new jobs by 2030, research has found.

But the uptake of these energy-saving measures depends heavily on government policy, according to an analysis by Cambridge Econometrics, commissioned by Greenpeace.

Currently, ministers have little planned to encourage home insulation, though the chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, is expected to make a major announcement on the economy and energy crisis on Friday.

Through the boiler upgrade scheme, the government offers households up to £5,000 towards a heat pump, which is roughly half

the cost. But take-up has so far been slow. To gain the government incentive, households must meet a high standard of home insulation, which can cost from £7,000 to £15,000, and there is currently no government support for the average homeowner.

Doug Parr, chief scientist at Greenpeace UK, said: "The UK is in an economic, energy and climate meltdown. Yet the government continues to shun the green home upgrades that offer a viable way out of this mess."

The economic boost forecast in the analysis, entitled *Economic Impacts of Decarbonising Heating in Residential Buildings*, comes mainly from savings on energy bills and the creation of green jobs, and the impact on the economy from freeing up people's spending.

Parr said: "Greening the UK's homes at speed and scale will reduce energy consumption, bills and carbon

emissions. It will provide tens of millions of households with warmer homes that are cheaper to run and help limit the catastrophic impacts of the climate crisis. As the UK is hurtling towards a recession, it could give a boost of almost £7bn for the economy by the end of the decade."

According to the modelling used in the report, in 2030 the government would need to spend £4.2bn on supporting heat pumps and insulation, with households spending £9.3bn. In that year, households would save £11bn through lower heating costs.

Greenpeace urged Kwarteng to devote £7bn to insulation and heat pump installations over the next two years, and provide more support to those in fuel poverty through a windfall tax on oil and gas companies.

Liz Truss, the prime minister, has set a cap on energy bills of £2,500 for the average household. However, the

freeze will mean the government handing an estimated £150bn to energy companies, which critics have said does little to solve the causes of the crisis, including the UK's reliance on fossil fuels, leaky houses and barriers to renewable energy.

Insulation is the cheapest way to cut energy bills, experts have repeatedly said since Russia's invasion of

140,000

Number of new jobs that could result from installing insulation and heat pumps in homes by 2030

£15,000

Upper cost of insulating a home so that it meets the standard required for a government heat pump grant

Ukraine sent gas prices soaring. But the government has made no move since then to improve home insulation rates.

Insulation rates fell by 50% last year and there has been no government support for average households in England to install insulation since the scrapping of the green homes grant in March 2021.

The UK has continued to build new homes that use gas boilers, lack solar panels and are not built to low-carbon standards, so will require expensive retrofits to meet the target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Jon Stenning, head of environment at Cambridge Econometrics, said: "Improving the quality of the UK's housing stock and switching to low-carbon heating technologies can bring down household bills immediately, while delivering greater economic growth and substantial carbon emissions savings in the long term."

Michael Lewis, chief executive of energy company E.ON UK, said: "We've seen the personal impacts of people living in warmer, more comfortable homes - not just lower bills, but families leading healthier lives in streets and estates that are simply nicer places to live."

Landowners join call to ministers not to scrap rewilding schemes

Helena Horton

Environment reporter

The head of Natural England and the chair of England's largest landowners' organisation are to meet the new environment secretary to urge him not to scrap or water down rewilding schemes.

Tony Juniper, who will meet Ranil Jayawardena along with the Country Land and Business Association (CLA) chair, Mark Tufnell, today, pointed out that swathes of prime land were being used for golf courses, housing and other infrastructure but political focus was on the small amount that would be rewilded.

There has been concern that the new government might roll back nature recovery schemes put in place by the previous administration, in which landowners and farmers are paid for improving nature.

The business secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg, is said to have pushed back against the schemes, while Jayawardena announced his new role by visiting an intensive chicken farm and made little mention of nature, instead focusing on food security.

Speaking at the Gathering nature festival at Wild Ken Hill in Norfolk, Juniper said: "Some of [this prime



Pushback:
Jacob
Rees-Mogg

◀ RSPB Haweswater in Cumbria, whose senior site manager Lee Schofield described any government attempt to cut rewilding schemes as 'terrifying'

land] is under golf courses, so it is not only nature and other things."

He said alongside food security "we also need to catch carbon, we also need to avoid flood risk. We also need to have places for healthy outdoor enjoyment and recreation, we need land for biodiversity and nature recovery, you need land for

water infrastructure, and housing. There's probably more housing going on land with high agricultural value than there is rewilding projects. And all of this stuff needs to be on the table at once."

Tufnell, whose organisation represents 33,000 landowners, said he hoped the new administration would listen to them, and that they realised nature recovery was the future.

He said: "We are meeting the secretary of state ... and I will be asking the same questions that we have debated this morning. We do need to accelerate environment land management and we need to see a recovery in nature. It's a totally false narrative that you can have food or you can have nature. You have to have both, and it's perfectly possible."

Some at the event were concerned that the government would try to cut

◀ Campaigners are concerned that Liz Truss's new government will roll back nature recovery schemes

PHOTOGRAPH: ENVIROMANTIC/GETTY

the schemes. Lee Schofield, a senior site manager at RSPB Haweswater in Cumbria, said: "I am very concerned, so I'm not sure what else to say. It's terrifying. And we just have to hope that what they may try to enact does not get through the checks and balances that are in place to stop us going backwards."

Some conservationists are more optimistic about the prospect of nature recovery as they believe Liz Truss's government may not be around for long - so might not be able to cause much damage to the schemes even if it wanted to.

Jake Fiennes, the head of conservation at the Holkham national nature reserve in Norfolk and author of *Land Healer*, said: "We have a government that potentially is only going to be around for 18 months. We have set this ball rolling. There's environmental restoration already in place that is happening. I think that actually we are on a trajectory, and I think this momentum is not going to stop."

Benedict Macdonald, who works with landowners to rewild with the Real Wild Estates Company, said his clients disagreed with anti-nature comments from government figures.

He said: "The backlash against this government, especially from the landowners and farmers, will be from them saying: 'Why are you standing in the way of me doing better things and handing down sustainable land to my children?' And that's a very powerful thing that I don't think 18 months of government is going to sink."

Juniper said: "I don't see any reason why we need to be making any departures from those policies at the moment. I look forward to working with ministers on finding the very best ways forward during the months and years ahead."

▼ Soft drinks in a supermarket. The levy has led to a 30% cut in the sugar content of many soft drinks

PHOTOGRAPH: JUSTIN KASE ZSIXZ/ALAMY



Truss plan to axe sugar tax runs into trouble as backlash grows

Denis Campbell
Health policy editor

Liz Truss has run into difficulties in her desire to scrap the sugar tax amid a growing backlash against the plan, which health experts have said is “dangerous” and “nonsensical”.

Whitehall sources say there is “a question mark” over how the prime minister can overcome legal and parliamentary procedural obstacles to abandoning the soft drinks industry levy.

It is unclear what mechanism she could use to repeal the tax, which was introduced in 2018 as a result of its inclusion in the Finance Act 2017.

She is an ardent critic of state intervention to promote healthier lifestyles and has previously said “taxes on treats hit those on the lowest incomes” and the government should not tell people what to eat.

Officials have made Truss and Thérèse Coffey, the health secretary, aware of the challenges involved in ditching the levy, which won wide support among MPs.

The Guardian revealed last week that the government was undertaking an unpublicised review of obesity strategy in England that was expected to lead to policies such as bans on junk food adverts on TV before 9pm and “buy one get one free” offers being jettisoned.

Senior doctors and health campaigners voiced deep unease about the plan. Senior officials in the government’s Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), in effect the public health section of the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), are appalled at the planned bonfire of restrictions.

There is consternation about the plan. The levy raises £300m a year for the Treasury and has led to a cut

of up to 30% in the sugar content of many soft drinks, which have been linked to tooth decay, obesity, type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

In the year after the levy came into force it led to a 10% fall in the amount of sugar households consumed through soft drinks, according to Medical Research Council (MRC)-funded research last year. The authors described it as a “win-win” for public

health and for soft drinks manufacturers, most of which have adjusted their products’ composition. “There are few policies that are good for business, good for health and good for government. The soft drinks industry levy is one of them,” said Katharine Jenner, director of the Obesity Health Alliance, a group of 50 health charities and medical organisations.

The £300m it generates has paid for breakfast programmes, as well as sport and equipment to promote physical activity in schools, especially in poor areas. Jenner said: “Removing the levy would mean those on lower incomes would have to actually pay more to access programmes like this, in a cost of living crisis. It is nonsensical.”

The British Association for Nutrition and Lifestyle Medicine (BANT) warned ministers “it is dangerous territory to move from having an inadequate strategy to no strategy at all”. The DHSC was approached for a response. It has described it as “an internal summary of obesity policy”. Ministers in the department believe it is right to monitor the impact of restrictions on the promotion of foods high in fat, salt and sugar because of families’ difficulties in coping with soaring inflation.

‘Few policies are good for business, good for health and good for government. This levy is one’

Katharine Jenner
Obesity Health Alliance

Night owls may be less able to burn fat than early birds – study

Ian Sample
Science editor

Night owls may be more prone to heart disease and diabetes than early birds because their bodies are less able to burn fat for energy, US researchers say.

People who rise early rely more on fat as an energy source, and are often more active in the day, than those

who stay up later, meaning fat may build up more easily in night owls, the scientists found.

The findings may help explain why night owls are at greater risk of type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease, and allow doctors to identify patients early on who are more likely to develop the conditions.

“This could help medical professionals consider another behavioural factor contributing to disease risk,”

said Prof Steven Malin, a senior author on the study and metabolism expert at Rutgers University in the US.

The researchers divided 51 obese middle-aged adults into early birds and night owls, depending on their answers to a questionnaire on sleeping and activity habits. They then monitored the volunteers’ activity patterns for a week and tested their bodies’ fuel preferences at rest and while performing moderate or high intensity exercise on a treadmill.

Writing in *Experimental Physiology*, the team describe how early birds were more sensitive to blood levels of insulin and burned more fat than night owls while at rest and

during exercise. The night owls were less sensitive to insulin and their bodies favoured carbohydrates over fat as an energy source.

Malin said it was unclear why differences in metabolism are seen in night owls and early birds, but one possibility is a mismatch between the times people go to bed and wake and the circadian rhythms that govern their body clocks.

If a person is a night owl, Malin added, they may prefer to go to bed late, but still have to get up early to go to work, or look after children, and this may force them to be out of alignment with their body clocks when they would rather be sleeping.

Labour blasts Tories over uncoded energy price freeze plans

Rowena Mason
Deputy political editor

Labour has questioned who will pay for Liz Truss’s economic plans ahead of this week’s energy package and mini-budget in a sign of their line of attack on the government over the state of the economy.

As Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng prepare for a fiscal event this week, Pat McFadden, the shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, highlighted the difference between Labour’s plans to fund an energy price freeze with a windfall tax on oil and gas companies and the Tories’ unfunded plans.

He said that under the Conservative proposals, which look set to be paid for by borrowing, “working people will be left paying the bill for years to come”.

Labour’s criticism of the government’s uncoded plans marks a return to political debate after 10 days of national mourning. Truss faces a packed schedule, with diplomatic meetings in New York before more details of her energy package are outlined on Wednesday and the mini-budget on Friday.

Truss and Kwarteng are keen to frame their plans as a move towards promoting growth at all costs. But McFadden claimed the party was out of ideas after 12 years in power. “It’s just another zigzag in the record of low growth over which they have presided,” he said, labelling the government’s record “a failure”.

Labour proposed an energy price freeze, paid for by a windfall tax, in the summer. Truss has followed suit by backing a price freeze, but rejected the windfall tax idea, and has not suggested how it will be paid for.

At the mini-budget, Kwarteng is also expected to a reversal to the national insurance rise, which Labour opposed when it was brought in last year by Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak.

Kwarteng also plans to freeze corporation tax, which Labour said was “a return to the failed policy pursued by George Osborne a few years ago” and introduce low-tax “enterprise zones”, which the opposition said was an “even older idea, tried as far back as the 1980s”.

An analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies found on Monday that the lowest-paid workers stand to gain just 63p a month from the reversal of the National Insurance rise, while the richest could get back £150 a month.

Those in households with the average income of £31,400 will save about £20 a month, while households with an income of £55,000 will save about £58, according to the IFS analysis.

Kwarteng could also unveil further tax cuts such as a future reduction in income tax by 1p or even 2p.

iPhone 14 bug may cause camera to fail, say users

Alex Hern
Technology editor

A major bug in Apple's latest iPhone is causing the camera to physically fail when using apps such as TikTok, Snapchat and Instagram, some owners have reported.

The bug in the iPhone 14 Pro Max, the most expensive model in the iPhone 14 range, appears to affect the optical image stabilisation (OIS) feature, which uses a physical motor to eliminate the effects of camera shake when taking pictures.

Opening the camera in certain apps causes the OIS motor to go haywire, causing audible grinding sounds and physically vibrating the entire phone.

Apple did not respond to requests for comment about the bug, which has been reported by multiple users on social media.

The vibration does not occur when using the built-in camera app,



suggesting the problem's roots are in a software fault.

However, some are warning affected users to limit their usage of apps which trigger the bug, in case excess vibration causes permanent damage to the OIS system.

Apple has previously warned about potential damage to the OIS motor, particularly in situations when their phones are experiencing significant vibration. In January, the company published a long warning note for users about the risk of mounting their iPhones near "high-power motorcycle engines".

"The OIS and closed-loop AF systems in iPhone are designed

for durability," the company said. "However ... long-term direct exposure to high-amplitude vibrations within certain frequency ranges may degrade the performance of these systems and lead to reduced image quality for photos and videos."

It added: "It is not recommended to attach your iPhone to motorcycles with high-power or high-volume engines due to the amplitude of the vibration in certain frequency ranges that they generate."

▲ The new range of iPhone 14s were released by Apple to much fanfare earlier this month PHOTOGRAPH: RINGO CHIU/ZUMA/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK

Grand Theft Auto VI footage leaks online after data breach

Keza MacDonald

More than 90 videos and images of Grand Theft Auto VI, the follow-up to 2013's Grand Theft Auto V, one of the bestselling video games of all time, leaked online at the weekend, in one of the biggest confidential data breaches in gaming history.

The footage was posted to the GTAForums website by a user called teapotuberhacker, who claims to have accessed it by hacking Rockstar Games's internal company Slack feed and gaining access to their servers.

The post has since been taken down, but not before the images and video proliferated across social media. Rockstar's parent company, Take-Two Interactive, has been issuing takedowns to remove the footage from YouTube and Twitter.

The hacker also threatened to leak source code for both Grand Theft Auto V and the development version of Grand Theft Auto VI, inviting

Rockstar Games to negotiate a deal. Sources close to Rockstar indicated to the Guardian that the leak is genuine, representing an early build of the game. It shows animation tests, level layouts and gameplay tests, including a Latina protagonist in a fictionalised modern-day Miami, also the setting of 2002's Grand Theft Auto: Vice City.

Neil Druckmann of Naughty Dog, whose 2020 game The Last of Us Part II was leaked in its entirety before release, tweeted: "To my fellow devs ... while it feels overwhelming right now, it'll pass. One day we'll be playing your game, appreciating your craft, and the leaks will be relegated to a footnote on a Wikipedia page."

Grand Theft Auto V has sold 170m copies and with its online multiplayer mode, GTA Online, is generated more than \$900m (£790m) for Take Two in 2020 alone. The new game is expected to break records on release, though that is several years away.



▲ The leaked images and video have proliferated across social media

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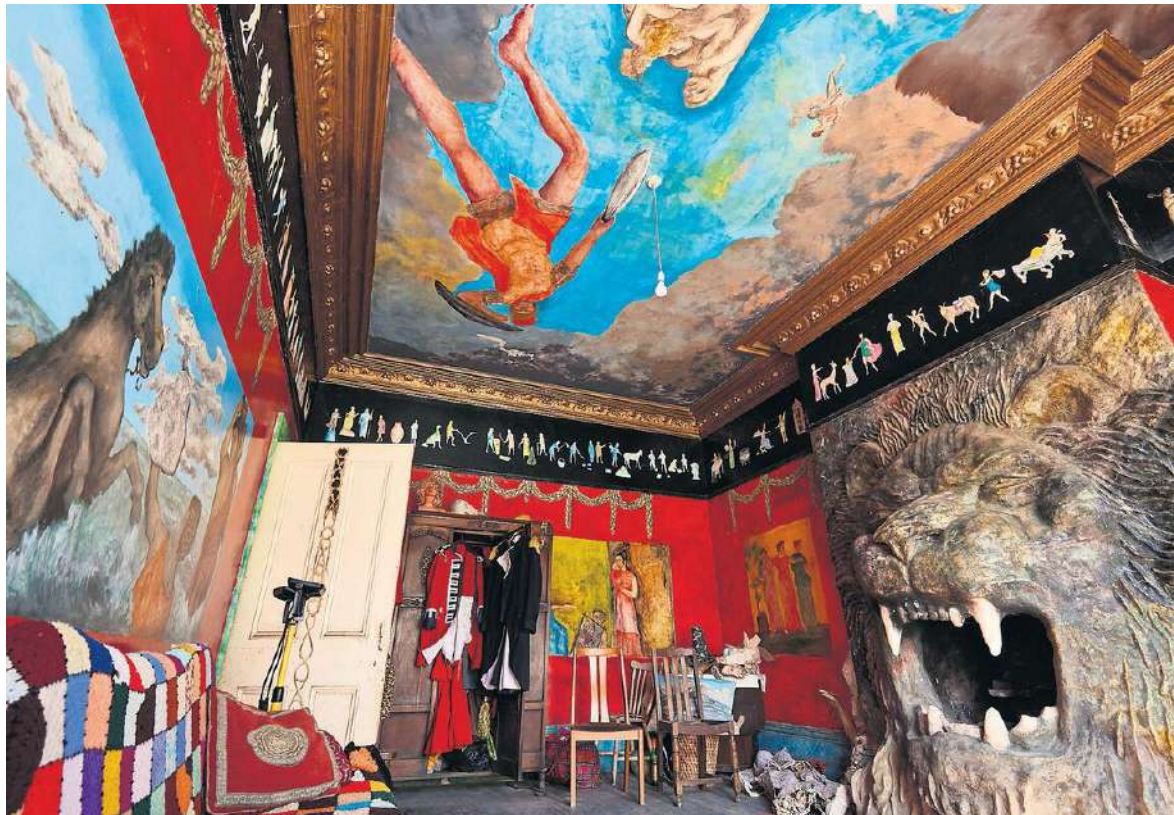


The GuardianWeekly

Art house Funding drive to save the flat that Ron made

Mark Brown
North of England correspondent

The front room of the late Ron Gittins’s flat has a Pompeii Villa of Mysteries vibe. The hall could be an Egyptian tomb. The bathroom, an aquarium fever dream. Handmade fireplaces include a 3-metre tall lion, a minotaur and a Roman altar. The interior would stop you in your tracks anywhere. That no one knew it was there, that Gittins spent decades creating it by stealth in his rented ground floor property in Birkenhead, stops you a bit longer. Now fundraising events will be held to help save the interior – Ron’s Place – from being lost. One of those involved is the musician and broadcaster Jarvis Cocker, who sees Gittins as an outsider artist whose creations deserve to be preserved. “We can all relate to people who do their houses up, everybody decorates their house in some way,” Cocker said. “Ron has just gone that extra mile.”



▼ ‘He’s gone the extra mile’: the extraordinary interior of Ron Gittins’ rented flat in Birkenhead
PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND



◀ Elaborate decoration by Gittins, pictured below left in a framed photograph from his hall in Birkenhead. Below right: trustee Martin Wallace hopes to save the work
PHOTOGRAPHS: CHRISTOPHER THOMOND/ THE GUARDIAN



Cocker said the lion’s head fireplace, moulded by Gittins in concrete, was “unbelievable”. “I have always been interested in the art of people who haven’t gone through the normal channels, they haven’t gone to art college and stuff like that,” he added. “They have an idea and they follow it through. We all have creativity within us.” Gittins, a complicated character, died in 2019. He left the flat piled high with bags, boxes, magazines, videos and handwritten notes, some in code. Along with the works painted and sculpted on to walls and ceilings are papier-mache figures and handmade costumes. One is the uniform of a Grenadier guard he wore to march up and down, with a papier-mache musket, outside a nursing home in a dispute on behalf of his mother. “People would find him funny, provocative, a bloody nuisance, but there was also a method to his

madness,” said the film-maker Martin Wallace, who is making a documentary about Gittins and is on the advisory board of Ron’s Place. He mentioned the time Gittins shuffled to the centre of Birkenhead with his legs tied together, wearing an orange jumpsuit, protesting about Guantánamo Bay detention centre. “It was a very private, deep protest,” said Wallace. “He would engage with people and tell them if he spoke to them but he wasn’t reaching out to make as much noise as he could.” Gittins led a frugal life on disability benefit. He had mental health issues and was diagnosed with what today is called bipolar disorder. But Wallace said: “I’ve interviewed loads of people who met him and I say towards the end of the conversation, do you think Ron had a mental health problem and they look at me like: ‘Are you serious? Of course he didn’t.’” Gittins was well known locally and would sometimes have artwork commissioned. “Ron was friendly with the fishmonger in Birkenhead market and he commissioned a painting of him and his brother as Roman invaders to Britain in the fourth century, sacrificing a red mullet,” said Wallace. It’s not on display. “The fishmonger’s wife hates it. It’s wrapped up in bubble wrap in the garage.” The hope is that Gittins’s work might inspire others. “Everyone who comes here has a kind of childlike response,” said Wallace. “There is something fascinating and stimulating and uplifting about it ... maybe something a bit sad about it as well.” The plan is for Ron’s Place to become a community resource, inspiring creativity in others, as part of a cultural regeneration of Birkenhead. The fundraising events are Imagine, a festival of art and music on 25 September at Future Yard, Birkenhead; and Jarvis Cocker in conversation at Liverpool Playhouse on 30 September.

Comedy review A self-mocking celebration of gaffes and humiliations

Dawn French Is a Huge Twat
New Theatre, Oxford
★★★★☆

Brian Logan

It’s called semantic satiation, when you say a word so many times it starts to lose its meaning. Something of that effect is on display in this touring show, which asserts – over and over again, in one life-and-work yarn after another – that Dawn French Is a Huge Twat. The young Dawn tries to be pretty

by twitching her nose? Twat. Actor Dawn screws up the US accent for Kenneth Branagh’s movie Death on the Nile. Huge twat. Ageing Dawn misunderstands her doctor’s diagnosis when he treats her gammy knee. Twat twat twat. This is an enormously likable show but the motif is stretched way beyond breaking point. A significant handful of French’s anecdotes don’t demonstrate twattishness in any way – like the one about refusing to perform a sexist line in a Comic Strip script, or the one about Dustin Hoffman’s eccentric visit to her West End dressing room. Engaging stories they may be. Illustrations of

French’s supposed “staggering stupidity”, they are not. No matter. The point is to encourage us all to be more at ease with our social awkwardness, our self-consciousness, our gaffes – to celebrate shared idiocy rather than stage-managing Insta perfection for likes, which the 64-year-old deplores. That’s a cause I can get behind, and French isn’t short of stories that fly its flag. Her tale of filming saucy scenes with Phil Daniels offers a perspective on

staged intimacy you seldom hear, as well as delivering the required levels of daftness. A disastrous audition for Mamma Mia! is brought vividly to life as our host re-enacts listening to herself mangle one Abba song after another. Then there’s the showstopping story of her and then-husband Lenny Henry’s appearance at a fancy dress ball for Elton John’s 50th birthday. French spins this one into a mini-masterpiece of public humiliation, heaping detail

upon self-abasing detail, and – ticklishly, brilliantly – withholding photographic corroboration until the last possible moment. A few anecdotes feel low-wattage but those are usually redeemed by French’s bubblyness and congeniality, an assertively unstarry manner bolstered by her story of haplessly fangirling Norah Jones. And it’s fun just to revisit the shows, sketches and comedy collectives she’s been part of over her 40-year career: a fresh-faced Ade Edmondson here, a boyish Hugh Laurie there. Jennifer “Fatty” Saunders almost everywhere. Finally, as French ranges across The Vicar of Dibley, Murder Most Horrid and Harry Potter, it’s as a compendium of often self-mocking showbiz reminiscences, more than as a testament to twattishness, that the show is best enjoyed. And enjoy it you probably will. Huge Twat she may be. Entertainer to her bones French unmistakably is.



◀ Dawn French’s anecdotes revisit many of the shows, sketches and comedy collectives she has been part of over her 40-year career
PHOTOGRAPH: MARC BRENNER

At Sheffield City Hall on Thursday, then touring

World

UN summit set to focus on Ukraine fate while global south seeks pivot

Julian Borger and Patrick Wintour *New York*

The UN general assembly summit this week will be dominated by a struggle between the US and its allies and Russia for global support over the fate of Ukraine, while the global south fights to stop the conflict overshadowing the existential threats of famine and the climate crisis.

With a return to fully in-person general debate, presidents and prime ministers will be converging on New York, many of them direct from London, where the diplomacy got under way on the sidelines of the Queen's funeral.

Russia is currently in retreat on the battlefield and in the contest for global hearts and minds over Ukraine's fate. The general assembly voted 101-7 with 19 abstentions to allow Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy to deliver a pre-recorded video address, granting him an exemption from the requirement that speakers should appear in person.

India, a longstanding Moscow ally that has tended to abstain in votes on Ukraine, voted in Zelenskyy's favour. The vote was on the same day that India's prime minister, Narendra Modi, publicly scolded Vladimir Putin telling him "today's time is not a time for war" when they appeared at a regional Asia summit in Uzbekistan. Putin said he was aware of Indian "concerns", echoing what he had said the day before about China.

The week-long session begins as mass graves are being discovered after the Russian retreat from the Ukrainian town of Izium.

War crimes are likely to be central in speeches on Wednesday delivered by Zelenskyy and Joe Biden, and the UN security council will have a ministerial meeting on Thursday morning, chaired by the French foreign minister, Catherine Colonna, focused

on accountability for war crimes in Ukraine.

The Russians "should expect that it will not be business as usual when they arrive in New York tomorrow" the US envoy to the UN, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said.

"They will be isolated. They will be condemned in the security council, as well as more broadly in the general assembly," she told CNN.

Despite sympathy at the assembly for Ukraine's plight, there has been irritation among developing countries that the focus on the conflict has crowded out discussion and action on food and climate crises that threaten mass displacement and starvation.

Ukraine has pressed for more resolutions condemning Russia in the security council and general assembly, but Kyiv's western backers have warned of the risk that the diminishing numbers supporting such resolutions might become the story.

"There has been an ebb and flow of interest and engagement from countries not directly affected by Ukraine and so we've had to work hard to make it clear that we're talking about those issues that do affect them in their own right," a European diplomat at the UN said.

Biden will chair a summit today on food security, and US officials have signalled that Washington is ready to talk about reform of UN institutions.

In a parallel move to bolster its support at the general assembly, the US has abandoned its non-committal position on reform of UN institutions to make them more representative.

The US assistant secretary for international organisation affairs, Michele Sison, said on Friday: "we do not believe the United States should defend an outdated status quo."

"While we're clear-eyed about the obstacles to security council reform, we will make a serious call for countries to forge consensus around credible, realistic proposals for the way forward," Sison said. "To remain credible into the 21st century, the council needs to better reflect global realities and incorporate regional perspectives."

As there are competing plans for changing the membership of the security council, all of which will be vetoed by Russia and China, the change in US position is unlikely to lead to any reforms. It is aimed mainly at further isolating Moscow and Beijing as guardians of the status quo.



'They treat people like beasts' In liberated town, stories of a harsh occupation and ready collaborators

Luke Harding and Isobel Koshiw *Shevchenkove*

Until last week, a portrait of Vladimir Putin hung on the wall of the mayor's office in the town of Shevchenkove, Kharkiv region. There was a Russian flag. Around a cabinet table, a pro-Kremlin "leader", Andrey Strezhko, held meetings with colleagues.

There was a lot to discuss. One topic: a referendum with Russia. Another: a new autumn curriculum for Shevchenkove's two schools, minus anything Ukrainian. Strezhko's ambitious plans were

never realised. On 8 September Ukraine's armed forces launched a surprise counteroffensive.

They swiftly recaptured a swath of territory in the north-eastern Kharkiv region including Shevchenkove. Most residents greeted the soldiers with hugs and kisses. Strezhko disappeared. He is believed to have fled across the Russian border, along with other collaborators.

Ukraine's acting military administrator, Andrii Konashavych, pointed to the chair where the pseudo-mayor had sat in the council building. On the wall was a portrait of Taras Shevchenko, Ukraine's national poet who gives his name to the town. What happened to the Putin photo? "We

tore it up," Konashavych said. Why was there no picture of President Zelenskyy? "Presidents come and go. Shevchenko is eternal," he said.

The Russians rolled into Shevchenkove - population 7,000 - on 25 February, at the beginning of the invasion. Strezhko got the job after ripping down a Ukrainian trident and stamping on it with his foot. The Russians promised residents they would stay in the town for ever. Over time, their presence became low-key. A couple of young soldiers patrolled the park, sometimes sleeping drunkenly on its benches. Over six months of occupation, troops were rotated in and out. They came from across Russia, including distant Siberia and Buryatiya, locals said.



▲ US envoy Linda Thomas-Greenfield said Russia 'will be isolated' at UN

Far-right extremism
Proud Boys memo
reveals violent plans
Page 34

‘Changing the game’
Kenyans embrace
genderless fashion
Page 35



disgusting, swimming in fat,” he said. The difference of opinion appeared to indicate closet political sympathies.

Sukhomlyn said the Russians checked all residents for Ukrainian patriotic tattoos, and came round twice to inspect his garage. If owners were away, they broke down the doors. They also examined computers and flash-drives. Putin’s FSB spy agency arrested several people, he said.

Twelve days ago Sukhomlyn said he saw a Russian soldier in the street wearing civilian clothes. He had thrown away his weapon in panic and was carrying his possessions in a knapsack. The soldier squeezed into a civilian car with six others and raced off north. Hours later, the pensioner cheered liberating Ukrainian servicemen. “This is my country. I was born here and will die here,” he said.

Yesterday investigators were trying to track down residents accused of treason. So far they had arrested three people. More than 100 policemen in the region defected, the deputy prosecutor Roman Yerokhin said. Those who committed serious crimes against the state could expect long prison sentences. Yerokhin said he had originally worked as a prosecutor in Luhansk, now the self-proclaimed capital of the Russian-controlled Luhansk People’s Republic. He left in 2014, when Russia and its proxies took over.

In the boarded-up conscription office down the road a sign read: “Mined, do not enter.” Ammunition crates had been fashioned into a makeshift control barrier. Yerokin entered through a back gate and descended down brick steps into a cool basement. Visible in the gloom were a suite of white metal cages installed during occupation.

There were narrow wooden benches, toilet buckets, and water bottles. A tiny punishment cell contained a chair, with no space to lie down. The occupiers rigged up a surveillance camera, dangling from the roof, and had put an Orthodox icon on the wall.

“Russians treat people like beasts. We think they locked up their own deserters here,” Yerokhin said, adding: “There may have been Ukrainian prisoners.”

The Kremlin, it seemed, was determined to impose its own harsh rules and punishments on territories it occupied.

▲ A destroyed Russian T-80 tank in a field between the liberated town of Shevchenkove and Kupiansk



▲ Soldiers patrol a checkpoint in Shevchenkove

◀ The deputy prosecutor Roman Yerokhin

MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: YASUYOSHI CHIBA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A propaganda newspaper was given out, and humanitarian supplies labelled as aid from Moscow. There were pro-Kremlin Telegram channels and a radio station, Kharkiv-Z, named after the letter which came to symbolise Putin’s Ukraine takeover. It was difficult to gauge what constituted support for occupation. A small minority actively collaborated. Others merely tried to survive.

Not far from the town’s Shevchenko bust, two pensioners held a heated discussion over the quality of food donated by Russia. One, Luda, said the tin of preserved beef she had accepted was “tasty”. Anatoly Sukhomlyn, a retired 72-year-old train driver, vehemently disagreed. “It was

‘We think they locked up their own deserters here. Maybe Ukrainian prisoners too’

Roman Yerokhin

Luhansk

Troops retake village to deny Moscow full control

Luke Harding
Kharkiv

Ukraine has recaptured a village close to the the eastern city of Lysychansk, in a small but symbolic victory that means Russia no longer has full control of the Luhansk region, one of Vladimir Putin’s key war aims.

Luhansk’s governor, Serhiy Haidai, said Ukraine’s armed forces were in “complete control” of Bilohorivka. “Soon we will drive these scumbags out of there with a broom,” he said, adding: “Step by step, centimetre by centimetre, we will liberate our entire land from the invaders.”

Video showed Ukrainian soldiers patrolling on foot down a ruined street. Russian forces have occupied all of Luhansk province for the past two and a half months. After a long and grinding battle Ukraine’s general staff decided to retreat in July from the cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk.

Over the past 12 days Ukrainian regiments in the north-east have mounted a stunning counter-offensive, liberating more than 300 settlements across the Kharkiv region and forcing Russian units to flee in disarray.

The reclaimed area is half the size

of Wales, and extends right up to the Russian border.

There were unconfirmed reports yesterday of Ukrainian troops advancing into Lysychansk. There now seems little prospect that the Kremlin will be able to take control of the whole of Donbas which includes the Donetsk and Luhansk oblasts. In March Putin had said this was the goal of his “special military operation” in Ukraine, after his failed attempt to seize the capital, Kyiv.

Over the weekend Russian troops shelled the city of Kupiansk from hastily constructed defensive positions east of the Oskil river. Hundreds of residents were evacuated. Ukraine said it took control of the city on Friday, crossing over a pontoon bridge to the river’s left bank.

Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy, yesterday accused the Kremlin of reckless behaviour after a shell landed 300 metres from a nuclear power plant in the southern Mykolaiv region. The missile damaged buildings and blew out windows. Three power lines were temporarily knocked out at the Pivdennoukrainsk facility.

Ukraine’s state nuclear company, Energoatom, said all three of its reactors were working normally and had not been damaged.



▲ Volodymyr Zelenskiy accused the Kremlin of reckless behaviour

Germany

Left party on brink of split over sanctions

Philip Oltermann
Berlin

Germany’s Die Linke could split in two over the Ukraine war, as the ailing leftwing party’s indecisive stance over economic sanctions against Russia triggered a series of high-profile resignations this week.

The future of Die Linke (the Left party) has hung in a precarious balance since it sneaked into the national parliament last autumn under a special provision for parties that win three or more constituency seats. Should three of its 39 delegates resign from the party, Die Linke would lose its status as a parliamentary group and attached privileges over speaking times and committee memberships.

Party insiders say such resignations are a matter of when, not if,

after a week of public infighting over a speech in which the former co-leader Sahra Wagenknecht accused the German government of “launching an unprecedented economic war against our most important energy supplier”.

Supporters of Wagenknecht are already hatching plans for a break-away party to compete in the 2024 European elections, the German newspaper Taz reported this week.

Such a split would be likely to spell the end of Die Linke, 15 years after it was founded and just under a decade after it formed the largest opposition force in the Bundestag’s 2013-17 term.

In her speech last week, Wagenknecht had called Olaf Scholz’s left-leaning coalition “the stupidest government in Europe” because it imposed sanctions on Russia, which supplied more than half of Germany’s gas needs before the start of the war.

“Yes, of course the war in Ukraine is a crime,” Wagenknecht said. “But how dumb is the idea that we can punish Putin by pushing millions of German families into poverty?”

Martina Renner, a former deputy leader of the leftwing party, said: “The phrase ‘the USA’s economic war against Russia’ is Kremlin propaganda”.

Document reveals military planning of far-right Proud Boys

Ed Pilkington
New York

A newly uncovered document has revealed the meticulous planning that goes into events staged by the far-right Proud Boys club, alleged to have acted as key organisers of the violent assault on the US Capitol.

The 23-page document, published online by the Guardian, has sections on “objectives” and “rules of engagement”. Its purpose was to provide a “strategic security plan” for a pro-Trump march that was scheduled for New York City on 10 January 2021. That was four days after Congress was to certify Joe Biden’s victory in the 2020 presidential election – the occasion that would be targeted by the fatal insurrection.

In the wake of January 6, which has been linked to the deaths of nine people, the New York march was called off, but the document remains sharply revealing.

It shows the lengths to which the Proud Boys go to prepare for potentially violent encounters and to cover their tracks – something prosecutors have stressed but that has never been seen in the group’s own words.

The document was obtained from a Proud Boys member by the extremism reporter Andy Campbell as he was researching his new book, *We Are Proud Boys*.

The author of the document is Randy Ireland, who, as president of

the group’s New York branch, is one of the most prominent Proud Boys in the US north-east. The paper was circulated to at least nine other chapters in New York and beyond.

The language in the planning paper is overtly militaristic. Ireland designates himself “general of security detail”, while his underlings are “VPs” of “recruiting”, “scout security” and “team leads”.

The plan was for 60 or so Proud Boys at the 10 January event to be corralled into seven “tactical teams” of five to eight men. Members were told to bring protective gear, including “knife/stab protection, helmets, gloves, boots” and to make use of radio channels, walkie-talkies or Telegram to communicate.

Campbell, who has been reporting on the Proud Boys since early 2017, describes them as America’s most notorious political fight club. In the planning paper, he sees equal parts fantasy and danger. “These guys see themselves as some sort of military outfit,” he said. “On one level it’s funny, as nothing is going to pan out the way they say it will. But on another, it’s alarming because it shows how much thought they put into this stuff.”

The group was formed in 2016 by the British-born founder of Vice magazine, Gavin McInnes, who branded himself a “western chauvinist” and peddled bigotry.

A Proud Boy was an organiser of the 2017 Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, during which an anti-fascist protester was murdered. The group has held violent gatherings in Portland, Oregon. Outside a Republican event in New York in 2018, several members were arrested and charged with assault.



PHOTOGRAPH: RYAN RAHMAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

Mexican fiesta in midtown Manhattan Performers wearing traditional costumes dance along Madison Avenue during the annual Mexican Independence Day parade in New York City.

Iranian police chief reportedly suspended after woman’s death

Patrick Wintour
Weronika Strzyżyńska
Agencies

The head of Iran’s morality police has reportedly been suspended from his post as protests swept across the country for a third day over the killing of a Kurdish woman who was detained by police for not wearing the hijab appropriately.

A number of Iranian news outlets reported that Col Ahmed Mirzaei, the head of the moral security police of Greater Tehran, had been suspended from his role after the death of Mahsa Amini, 22. Tehran police denied that he had been suspended or fired.

A CT scan of Amini’s head showed a bone fracture, haemorrhage and brain edema, seemingly confirming that she had been struck on the head.

The scan results, if confirmed, are a setback not only for the morality police, but the wider Tehran police force, since it published videos of her arrest and detention edited to suggest that she died from a heart condition or epilepsy. Her father denies she suffered from any such condition.

President Ebrahim Raisi, who has tightened enforcement of the headscarf law, spoke to Amini’s family by

phone on Sunday. “I feel that this incident happened to one of my loved ones. Please accept my condolences,” state media reported him as saying.

Raisi is travelling to New York, where he is due to address the general assembly today over the future of the nuclear deal with the west.

Western officials involved in the talks said yesterday they would not make a better offer to Iran, but Iranian sources claimed there might be movement from the UN nuclear weapons inspectorate, the IAEA.

The US called for accountability in the case. “Mahsa Amini’s death is an appalling and egregious affront to human rights,” a spokesperson for the White House National Security Council said. “Women in Iran should have the right to wear what they want, free from violence or harassment.”

60

Number of Proud Boys members expected to attend the pro-Trump march in New York in early 2021

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German town to rebuild bridge over Rhine that collapsed in second world war

Kate Connolly
Berlin

Officials in Germany have announced plans to rebuild a bridge over the Rhine that collapsed days after its capture by US soldiers in the final weeks of the second world war.

The bridge at Remagen, which featured in a 1969 film of the same name starring George Segal, Ben Gazzara and Robert Vaughn, focusing on the heroism of the allies' final advance into Germany, could be standing again within a decade, town planners have said.

The suspension bridge, known locally as the Ludendorff-Brücke, which was 325 metres long and six metres wide, would be reserved for pedestrians and cyclists, and stand as a monument to the victims of war, including those who died when it collapsed almost 80 years ago.

In a poll of local people in 2020, 91% voted in favour of rebuilding the bridge, with many saying that if only from a purely pragmatic point of view they were keen on a crossing over the Rhine. There is no river crossing for about 27 miles and only a limited number of ferry boats.

Marc Bors, a trade promoter for the town of Remagen, which has a

population of 17,456, said an engineer had been commissioned to draw up plans to reconstruct the bridge that were "viable and realistic".

When it collapsed, all that remained of the bridge - which was built during the first world war by Russian prisoners of war to facilitate the delivery of personnel, equipment and supplies to German troops on the western front - were the towers on its western bank in Remagen, which were converted into a peace museum, and those on the eastern bank in the village of Erpel, which are used as a performing arts space.

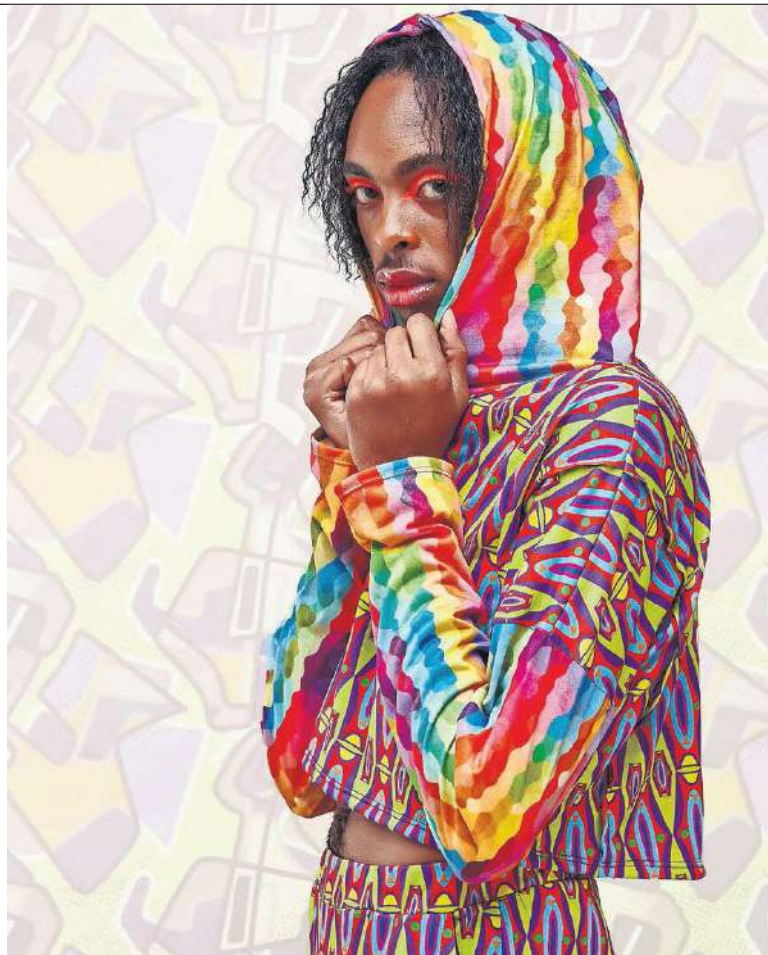
Local communities have signalled their readiness to help finance the project, expected to cost about €22m (£19m), but they have also asked the state of Rheinland-Pfalz and the federal government for funds, citing the symbolic importance of the project "which extends far beyond the region", the town said in a statement.

The US army crossed the bridge on 7 March 1945 after the retreat of the Wehrmacht from France, the first opportunity they had to cross the Rhine. German forces' attempts to blow it up by placing explosives at strategic points along the bridge failed, and allied engineers succeeded in removing the explosives before capturing the bridge.

It collapsed 10 days later, killing 28 army engineers. Ten of the bodies were never found, thought to have been swept away in the strong current of the river. The bridge, along with other hastily constructed pontoon bridges, allowed the US army to transport about 125,000 troops along with tanks, artillery and other vehicles over the river towards the east. Historians agree that its capture helped to shorten the war, which ended two months later, on 8 May.



▲ *The Bridge at Remagen (1969) depicted the capture of the bridge*



Interest in gender-fluid fashion helping to 'change the game' in Kenya

Caroline Kimeu
Nairobi

An increasing number of Kenyan labels are embracing genderless fashion amid calls for inclusivity from a younger, more daring generation.

In July the fashion brand Vivo and Bold Network Africa released a gender-inclusive collection called Zoya X Bold. The Nairobi designer Jamie Bryan Kimani, who launched his brand, Sevaria, in 2018, also creates gender-fluid clothing.

The LGBTQ+ activist Makena Njeri of Bold Network Africa, which describes itself as a queer storytelling platform, said fashion needed to be more inclusive. "For the longest

time I had to go to the men's section to even buy a shirt," said Njeri, who is non-binary.

Dressing across genders is common practice in Kenyan comedy, but those who do so outside of that still face a critical response. Zoya X Bold is a unisex collection that features striking fabrics, colours and prints designed to work with all body types.

"The clothing that's available on the market assumes a very binary



▲ *Kenyan LGBTQ+ activist Makena Njeri of Bold Africa Network*



▲ *Ashton Laurence and other models (above) wear genderless fashion, which is gaining popularity in Kenya*
PHOTOGRAPHS: SHOP ZETU PRODUCTION TEAM

world," said Wandia Gichuru, the CEO of Vivo. Many businesses are wary of taking a stand on sexual and gender inclusivity for fear of losing custom, she said. But times are changing, she added, and businesses have room to take more risk.

The Zoya label targets a "younger", "daring" and "less apologetic" demographic that Gichuru said leaned more towards inclusivity and self-expression than previous generations.

"The younger generation is more values-driven than my generation was," said Gichuru, pointing to the growing interest in locally made and environmentally sustainable products. "Being exclusive or outrightly prejudiced might hurt you in the long run."

Kenya's queer community has been increasingly visible after a number of prominent Kenyans came out. Celebrities such as Willis Chimano of the Afropop band Sauti Sol challenge traditional gender dressing with crop tops, low V-necks, bare backs and bodysuits. The popular lifestyle YouTuber Jayson Wamae also embraces fashion fluidity, dressing in sheer tops, silk jumpsuits and neck scarves.

But LGBTQ+ people face discrimination and violence in Kenya, and gender non-conforming people face heightened threats. In April, a 25-year-old non-binary lesbian was murdered in a suspected hate crime. In May, a 50-year-old intersex person was raped and killed. Figures by the National Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission suggest that these were not isolated incidents.

"Guys should be able to rock hot pink and not be questioned about what their sexual preferences are," said the singer-songwriter Ashton Laurence, 23, who modelled the Zoya X Bold line. "That kind of visibility in fashion is changing the game."

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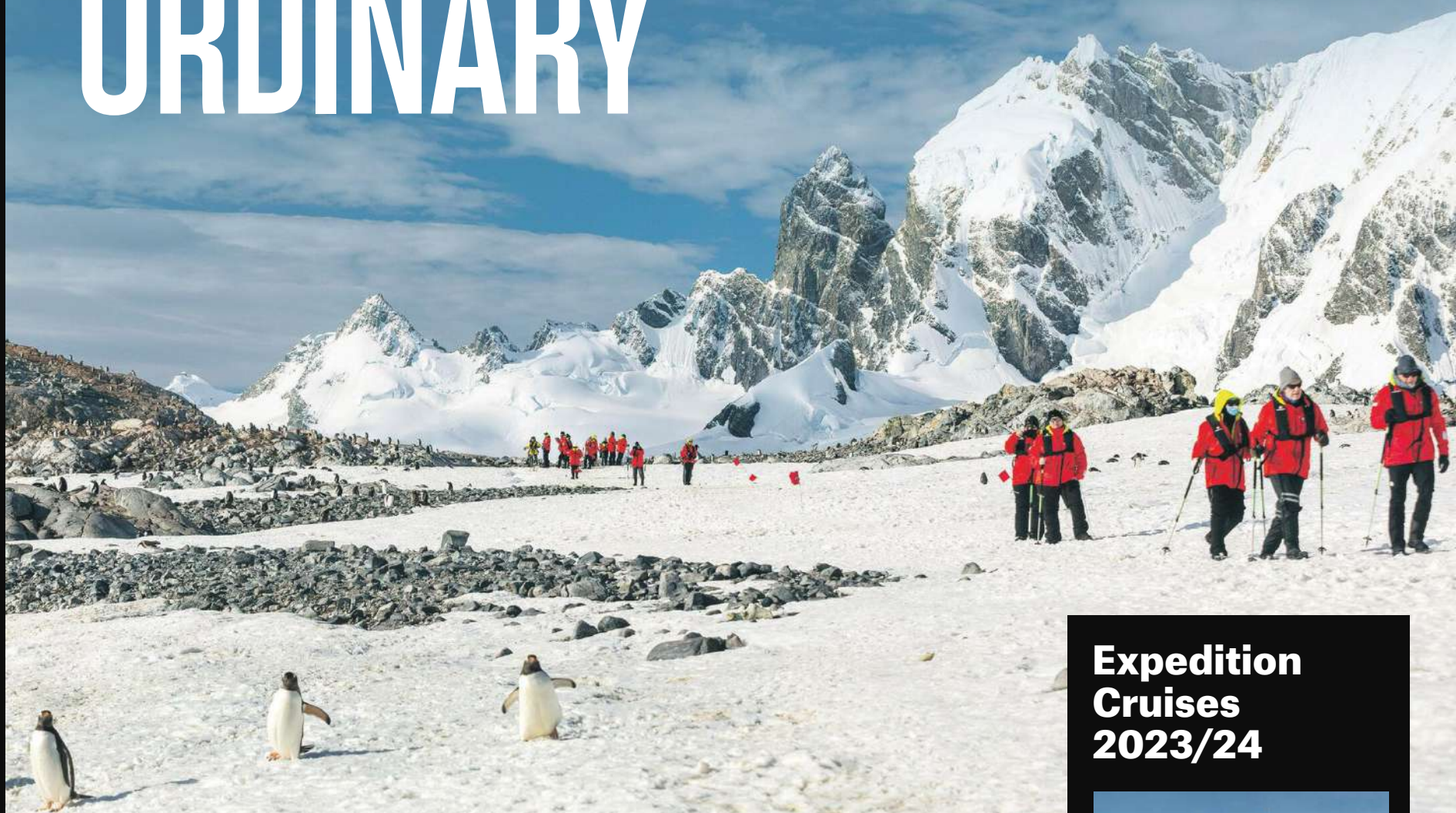
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'Left on the street'

Migrants in Italy face fresh hostility

Angela Giuffrida
Ventimiglia



For the weary Kurdish family and the young people from Eritrea, Mali and Ivory Coast outside Ventimiglia train station, life is like Groundhog Day, an itinerary invariably made up of repeated attempts to cross the border into France and of scrambling for food and finding somewhere to sleep.

The northern Italian coastal town has been a perennial waiting room for migrants for more than a decade, most of whom have made the perilous journey to Europe by boat, landing in southern Italy before making their way north.

But as a conservative coalition promises to clamp down on mass immigration as it charts its path to victory in general elections on 25 September, a fresh humanitarian crisis is playing out in Ventimiglia – exacerbated by a combination of careless policies from both sides of the political spectrum, and dysfunctional European measures.

Ibrahim, from Mali, had tried to enter France four times: twice by train and twice by walking along a motorway, only to be sent back by French police. “He’s tried it

23 times,” he said, pointing to his friend from Ivory Coast. “All we want is to be able to live.”

They have been sleeping in cardboard boxes outside the train station. Others bed down among rubbish under a bridge by the Roia River, in the park or on the beach.

The migrants arriving in Ventimiglia – about 100 a day, according to charity workers – have been left homeless since a council coalition of two far-right parties fulfilled its promise of closing the city’s only shelter, called Roia.

That council, a coalition of the Brothers of Italy and the League, and Silvio Berlusconi’s Forza Italia, elected in 2019 and heading for national power, however, did not last. Ventimiglia has been rudderless since June after the mayor, Gaetano Scullino, an independent backed by the three parties, was forced to resign after losing a confidence vote.

By then, enough damage had been done, with Scullino also closing off a fountain used by immigrants and homeless people.

“The situation has got so much worse here,” said Christian Papini, who runs the Caritas centre close to

▲ *The north-west Italian resort of Ventimiglia, where charities say about 100 migrants arrive each day; right, Delia Bonuomo at the former Bar Hobbit migrant hub*

PHOTOGRAPH: TIBOR BOGNAR/ALAMY



the station. “People have been left on the street, there is nothing close to hospitality here.”

Twenty-seven people are estimated to have died trying to enter France since 2017, either by drowning, being hit by a car or on the so-called “passage of death”, a mountain trail used by Italian Jews during the second world war.

Since France tightened border controls in 2015, French police have been accused of aggressive tactics. In June, an Egyptian died after being shot in the head by a French officer. The man had reportedly been in a van that rammed its way through a

checkpoint. “You also have people who beat immigrants up, or steal money from them, pretending to take them to France only to leave them stranded at the border or elsewhere,” said Papini.

The situation wasn’t much better when Ventimiglia was in the hands of the leftwing mayor, Enrico Ioculano, who banned residents from feeding migrants.

“He did this ‘decorum’ decree which was in place for several years, with the excuse that some citizens might have tried to poison the food,” said Delia Bonuomo, who ran Bar Hobbit, a hub for immigrants that closed last

December. “The truth was he didn’t want the issue of migrants. Some of us carried on giving food all the same, risking getting fined.”

Bonuomo, nicknamed “Mamma Africa”, opened her bar to migrants at the height of Europe’s refugee crisis in 2015, providing food, clothes and a place to wash. But as growing numbers queued outside, the initiative did not please nearby businesses or her Italian customers, who stopped coming. Bonuomo has been spat at in the street.

Another victim of his own humanity was Father Rito Alvarez, a priest who helped hundreds of people passing through a shelter set up at Saint Antonio church until Ventimiglia authorities closed it down in 2017. Alvarez was later transferred to a mountain parish, far from the migrants.

“We helped many vulnerable people, but because of the politics, we were forced to close,” he said. “The problem was there was no alternative, apart from the Roia shelter, but then that closed too, leaving people abandoned.”

Alvarez said he was worried about the upcoming election, recalling the hardline measures introduced by Matteo Salvini, the leader of the League, during his stint as interior minister in 2018-19. The measures included blocking migrant rescue ships, closing shelters and stripping people of two-year permits that had enabled them to work.

Meanwhile, Giorgia Meloni, the Brothers of Italy leader who may become prime minister, wants the navy to turn people back to Africa.

“These are all worrying policies, but we have always said that the immigration crisis is not only a national one, but a European one,” added Alvarez.

Charity associations want the EU’s Dublin agreement, which stipulates that those applying for asylum must do so in their first country of arrival, scrapped.

“The right says it will close off ports, while the left made an inhumane agreement with Libya to keep migrants there,” said Papini. “Neither side has a desire to resolve it, so the only way to do so would be to get rid of the Dublin agreement and oblige France to open its border.”



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FTSE 100 Closed 7236.68	All share Closed 3976.66	 Dow Indl +39.49 30861.91	Nikkei 225 Closed 27567.65	£/€ 1.1393 -0.0006	£/\$ 1.1407 -0.0026
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Financial

New Drax contract may push up price of energy, MPs warn

Alex Lawson
Energy correspondent

MPs have warned consumers may end up paying higher bills if the government rushes into providing further state support for the power station owner Drax.

As part of Liz Truss's £150bn energy bills freeze, renewable energy and nuclear power generators are being asked to supply electricity below current market rates.

Officials have begun to negotiate with generators on older wind, solar and nuclear contracts, which have benefited from windfall gains as the price of gas has soared, to persuade them to switch to less lucrative deals that lock in lower prices in return for guaranteed long-term income.

It is understood that Drax, which owns the vast power station complex in North Yorkshire and is Britain's single-biggest source of CO₂ emissions, could also negotiate over units two

and three at its plant, which receive renewable obligation certificate (ROC) payments for burning biomass wood pellets, making them eligible for the scheme.

Generators are not obliged to negotiate with the government as the scheme is voluntary. Drax said it was "working in partnership with the government to find ways in which we can support the country during the energy crisis this winter".

However, there are concerns that the government is in a weak negotiating position as generators will need to be persuaded to forgo high prices that are unlikely to abate for some time, meaning officials could rush into deals that later prove costly for taxpayers if the rise in wholesale gas prices quickly subsided.

The thinktank Ember calculates that from 2012 until 2027, when Drax's ROC subsidies end, it will have collected more than £11bn in government payouts. It is understood the new contracts could stretch to

between 10 and 15 years, opening up the possibility that Drax could land a further decade of state support.

The nuclear power station owners Centrica and EDF are keen to enter the initiative and have begun talks with ministers. The initiative was formally announced hours before parliament was suspended after the Queen's death.

Charlotte Nichols, a Labour MP and member of the business, energy and industrial strategy select committee, said: "It is vital that the terms of these renegotiated contracts receive proper parliamentary scrutiny, as it risks locking in higher prices over the longer term and continuing excessive subsidies for technologies we are moving away

£11bn
The estimated amount of subsidies the power station owner Drax will have collected from 2012 to 2027

from as we head towards our net zero targets.

"Such long-term financial decisions cannot be made unilaterally as a kneejerk response to our current energy crisis, and must be properly debated before any decisions are made that cannot later be unpicked. Particular scrutiny needs to be given to any deal with Drax given the existing levels of government support."

The Conservative MP Pauline Latham said: "The government is right to be looking at ways to bring down energy bills. But they should avoid locking bill payers into expensive new 15-year contracts to subsidise sources of energy with dubious environmental credentials."

Friends of the Earth's head of policy, Mike Childs, said: "It's astonishing that the government is considering spending more public money on Drax. If the company is to receive more subsidies, the government must at the very least ensure full transparency and proper parliamentary scrutiny."

A Drax spokesperson said: "Drax is working in partnership with the government to find ways in which we can support the country during the energy crisis this winter.

"We also plan to invest £3bn by 2030 in critical renewable energy infrastructure projects that will support energy security as well as jobs."

Public sector staff refused loans turning to buy now, pay later services

Kalyeena Makortoff
Banking correspondent

Experts have raised concerns over cash-strapped public sector workers turning to buy now, pay later loans after being turned down by mainstream lenders.

Analysis by the University of Edinburgh found that one in 10 public sector and NHS staff who were initially rejected for a more conventional loan on the basis that they could not afford to repay it, went on to secure credit from buy now, pay later (BNPL) companies last year.

Researchers also found overall use of BNPL products among public sector staff had "increased significantly" relative to other credit and loans.

Prof Tina Harrison, of the University of Edinburgh's business school, warned that rising use of BNPL increased the risk of public sector workers falling behind on payments: "Left unchecked, BNPL has the potential to very quickly lead to an unmanageable debt burden."

BNPL companies such as Klarna, Clearpay and Laybuy reported rapid growth during the pandemic as online shopping boomed. While shoppers are not usually charged interest on such purchases, they are at risk of overextending themselves with debt, and are not entitled to forbearance or compensation if things go wrong because such lenders are not regulated in the UK.

The Edinburgh research analysed the transactions of 104,661 NHS and public sector workers who applied for a loan from the non-profit lender Salad Money, which commissioned the survey, but were rejected for being unable to afford repayments.

Analysis of 174m anonymised bank transactions by the public sector workers found evidence 54% had experienced direct debits being returned - a key indicator of financial difficulties.

The head of Responsible Finance - an industry body for non-profit lenders in the UK - said the rate of BNPL approvals among previously rejected loan applicants was shocking. "How can it make sense that if a responsible lender says: 'No, this loan is not affordable,' an under-regulated, well-funded tech darling can say yes?" Theodora Hadjimichael said.

104,661
Unsuccessful loan applicants whose transactions were analysed as part of the University of Edinburgh study

Ben & Jerry's pair criticise Unilever over Israel deal

Rupert Neate

The founders of Ben and Jerry's have accused the UK consumer giant Unilever of violating a 22-year-old agreement with a move that could lead to the sale of the ice-cream in the occupied West Bank.

Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, who founded the company in Vermont in 1978 with a mission to "advance human rights and dignity", said they could no longer "sit idly by" after Unilever sold its interest in the ice-cream to an Israeli licence holder.

The founders say the sale breaches an agreement signed when Unilever bought the brand in 2000 for \$326m.

"That agreement gave authority over the social mission to the independent board of Ben & Jerry's," Cohen said in an interview with the US network MSNBC on Sunday night. "Unilever has usurped their authority and reversed the decision that was made and we can't allow that to happen, we can't sit idly by."

Greenfield said the "social mission" agreement "lasts in perpetuity ... and must be respected".



▲ Unilever sold the Israeli arm of Ben & Jerry's to the local licensee, Avi Zinger, prompting the lawsuit
PHOTOGRAPH: EMMANUEL DUNAND/AFP/GETTY

Ben & Jerry's independent board had announced that it would not renew a licence with AQP, which made and distributed the ice-cream in Israel, East Jerusalem and the West Bank, when it expired at the end of the year. It said selling its products in the occupied Palestinian territories was "inconsistent with our values".

That led Zinger to sue Unilever. The lawsuit was settled upon the sale of the licence.

Ben & Jerry's sued Unilever in New York in July, alleging the licence sale

violated the terms of Unilever's 2000 takeover agreement.

"The company's core values of advancing human rights and dignity, supporting social and economic justice for historically marginalised communities ... are integral to Ben & Jerry's identity," the lawsuit said. However, a judge denied Ben & Jerry's request for a preliminary injunction blocking the licensee deal.

Ben & Jerry's said this month that it planned to amend its lawsuit. Unilever must respond by 1 November.

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COMING UP NEXT...

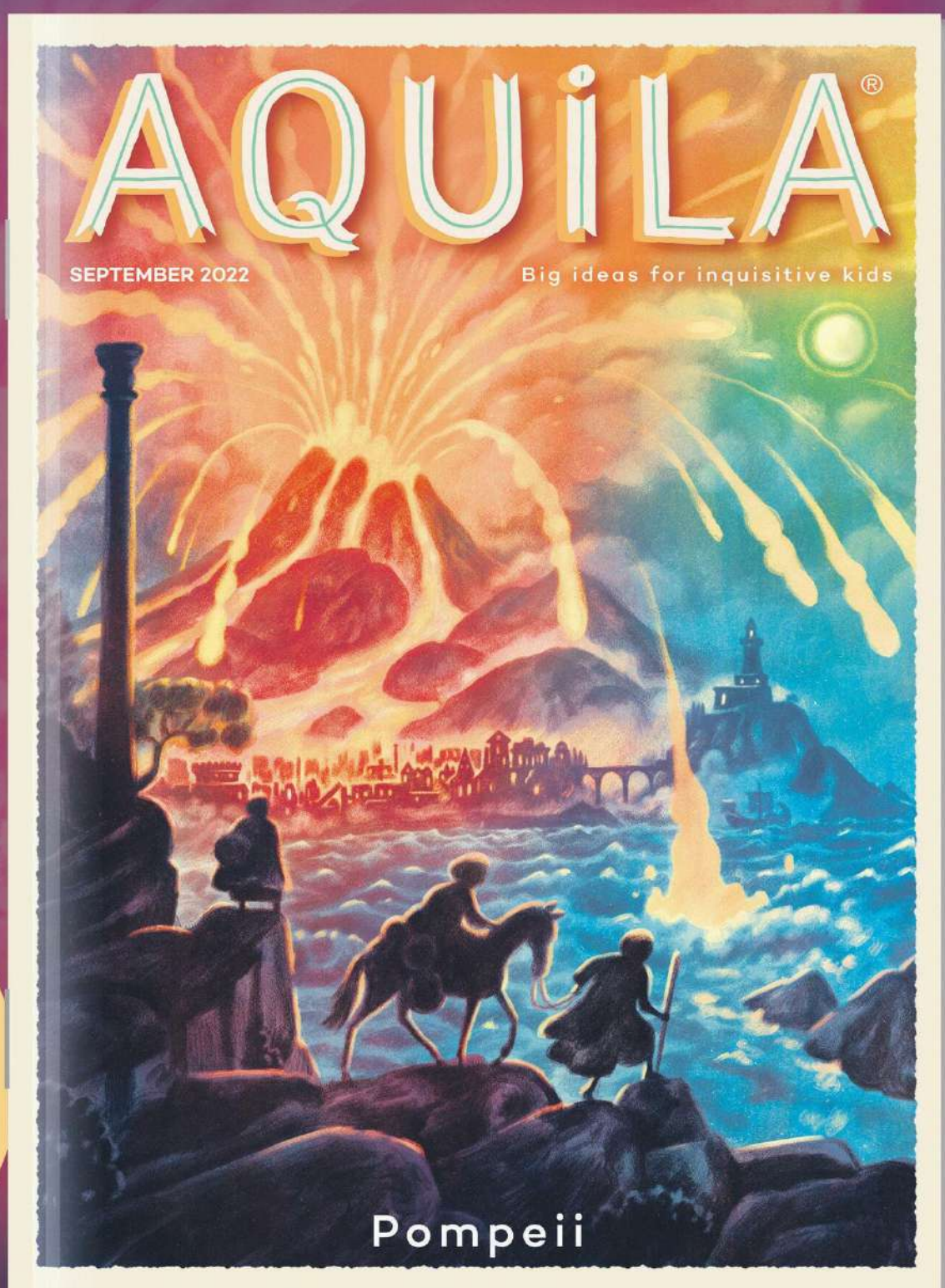
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▼ Consumers are spending carefully as cuts to gas supplies from Russia hit Germany's post-pandemic recovery

PHOTOGRAPH: KRISZTIAN BOCSI/BLOOMBERG



1,200%

The increase in the Eckehard Vatter bakery chain's monthly gas bill - to €75,000 for its 35 branches

90%

Proportion of German firms citing energy and raw material costs as a strong or 'existential' challenge

She called on the government to safeguard companies that are under particular threat owing to their high energy usage, "to ensure that they are able to keep a minimum level of their production capacity going. Those who shut up shop now, will never come back."

Many have already reduced production to an absolute minimum or - in the case of the ArcelorMittal steelworks in Hamburg and Bremen - plan to shut down "until further notice".

The scenario is being repeated across Germany, hitting most of all the energy intensive industries - steel, building materials, glass, paper, chemicals - that form the backbone of the German economy.

Meanwhile, cheaper energy and production costs elsewhere - gas is 10 times cheaper in the US - are driving some businesses to relocate. But in the case of the hundreds of thousands of small to medium sized, often family-run local *Mittelstand* companies, which have been Germany's main growth engine since the second world war, this is barely an option.

According to the Federation of German Industries (BDI), 90% cite the level of energy and raw material costs as either a "strong" or an "existential challenge".

Another recent survey found consumer confidence at its lowest since the founding of the federal republic in 1949. Households are rethinking spending, from holidays to purchases and meals out.

Businesses too are avoiding new investments and holding crisis meetings about how low they turn heating in factories and offices.

Increasing numbers are switching their workers into "Kurzarbeit" - short-time working - first introduced during the economic crisis of the 1920s.

Hanging on to workers is seen as crucial if Germany stands a chance of emerging from the current crisis. But increasingly the question is being asked: how long will it be able to afford to do so?

Gas pressure Fears of recession loom over Germany's industries

Kate Connolly
Berlin

Not pasta then?" Germans quipped this month, on hearing that of all things, a toilet paper manufacturer had gone bust.

Toilet paper was the second most sought-after supermarket item at the height of the pandemic, after pasta. People were rationed to ensure no one went without paper.

But the once-booming luxury brand Hakle from Düsseldorf - known for "bringing comfort since 1928" with its three-ply rolls - has collapsed as a result of the energy

crisis. It is the first large German consumer goods producer to fold because of soaring energy and raw material costs, and there is much to suggest that more will follow.

Last week the Munich-based Ifo Institute for Economic Research slashed its prognosis for German growth, declaring "we are heading into a winter recession". It forecast that Europe's largest economy would shrink by 0.3% in 2023, after growing by just 1.6% this year. Inflation is forecast to hit 8.1% this year and 9.3% in 2023.

"The cuts to gas supplies from Russia this summer and the drastic price increases they triggered are wreaking havoc on economic recovery following the coronavirus," said Timo

Wollmershäuser, Ifo's head of forecasts, adding that he did not expect a "return to normal" until 2024, when 1.8% growth and 2.4% inflation could be expected.

The German chancellor, Olaf Scholz, will travel to the Gulf this weekend to secure supplies of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the United Arab Emirates, as Russia chokes off its supply. The economy minister, Robert Habeck, said: "The gas supply is gradually broadening and the government is permanently in talks with many countries."

Paper production is energy intensive. Hakle used 40,000 MWh of electricity and 60,000 MWh of gas every year. The rises in energy costs came so hard and fast, the company said, it was unable to

pass them on in time to consumers, who in turn have been switching to cheaper two-ply paper.

Company bosses, trade union leaders, shopkeepers and employees across the country are openly expressing their fears of a crisis in danger of spiralling out of control. Habeck has admitted "the financial pressure is enormous".

In Hanover, northern Germany, Eckehard Vatter, a baker with 35 branches and 430 staff, protested after his gas bill rose by 1,200% to €75,000 (£65,800) a month. "Are they crazy? We will have to turn off the ovens," he said, taking to the streets with about 1,000 other bakers and placards accusing politicians of "steering us into the biggest crisis of all time".

Yasmin Fahimi, the head of the Federation of German Trade Unions (DGB), fears so many challenges coming at once. "Some companies are on the edge. This risks a domino effect that could lead to the deindustrialisation of Germany, which would be a catastrophe," she told Spiegel.

UK's business investment worst in G7 despite tax cuts, says IPPR

Richard Partington
Economics correspondent

Business investment in the UK fell to the lowest rate in the G7 group of wealthy nations despite corporation tax cuts, the government has been warned, as ministers prepare £30bn of giveaways targeted at companies and higher-income workers.

The Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) said a "race to the bottom" on the headline tax rate on company profits had failed to boost investment and economic growth in Britain over the past 15 years.

Liz Truss, the prime minister, and her chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, argue that lower rates of corporation tax could unleash an investment boom in Britain to help drive up

economic growth. Kwarteng will confirm more detail on the tax cuts on Friday.

However, the IPPR said slashing the headline rate from 30% in 2007 to 19% in 2019, orchestrated by the former chancellor George Osborne, did not spur higher private investment or faster economic growth.

Despite repeated tax cuts to the lowest rate in a century, the UK fell behind Italy and Canada to the lowest private sector investment in the G7 as a share of national income.

Cuts to corporation tax came with a net cost to the exchequer of almost £73bn between 2010 and 2018,

according to research by the Social Market Foundation. In only one year did an increase in business investment outweigh the cost.

Business investment has flatlined in recent years amid concern over the effects of Brexit, then Covid, and a challenging economic outlook. Official figures show the level of investment remains 5.7% below

where it was before the pandemic, while economists warn that rising energy costs and sky-high inflation will put a dampener on spending.

The IPPR report will raise fresh questions over Kwarteng's desire to scrap a planned increase in corporation tax to 25%, starting in April, that had been set in motion by the former chancellor, Rishi Sunak.

Urging the government to consider alternative ways to increase investment and economic growth, the centre-left thinktank said targeted tax cuts for companies and a commitment to an industrial strategy would have a bigger impact.

£30bn

Tax cuts that Kwasi Kwarteng may announce on Friday, targeted at businesses and higher earners

Weather

Tuesday 20 September 2022

UK and Ireland Noon today

Sunny

Mist

Fog

Sunny intervals

Hazy

Mostly cloudy

Overcast/dull

Sunny showers

Sunny and heavy showers

Light showers

Rain

Sleet

Light snow

Snow showers

Heavy snow

Ice

Thundery rain

Thundery showers

Temperature, °C

Wind speed, mph

Windy

35C

30

25

20

15

10

5

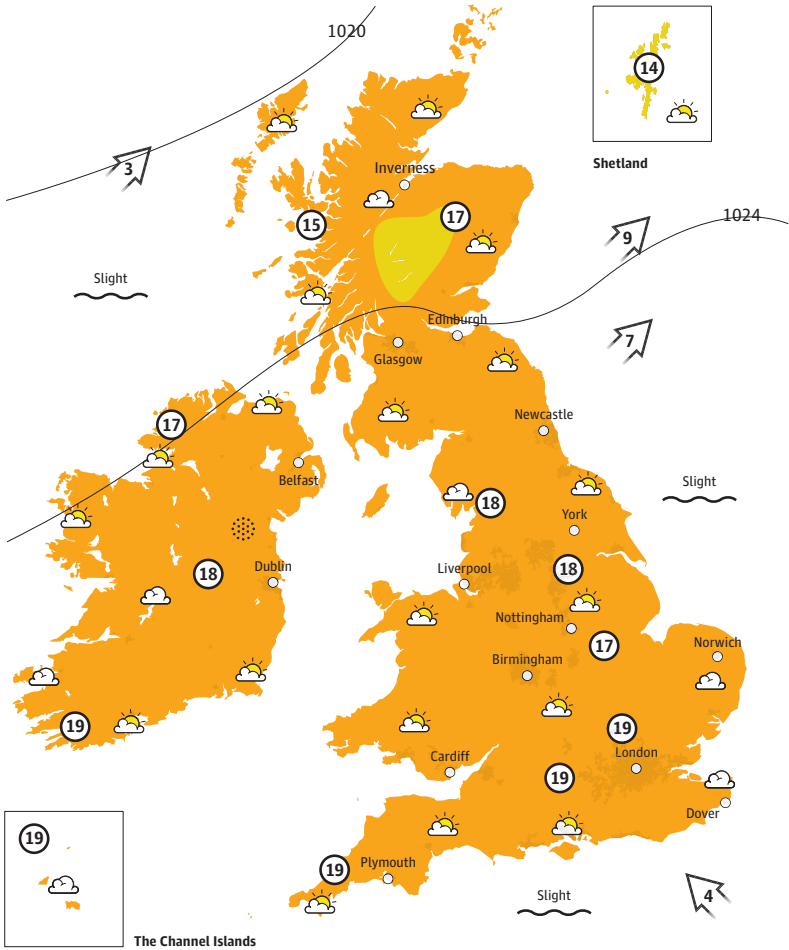
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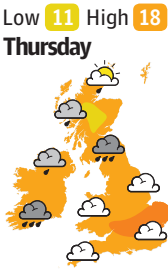
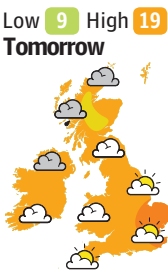
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Forecast



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):

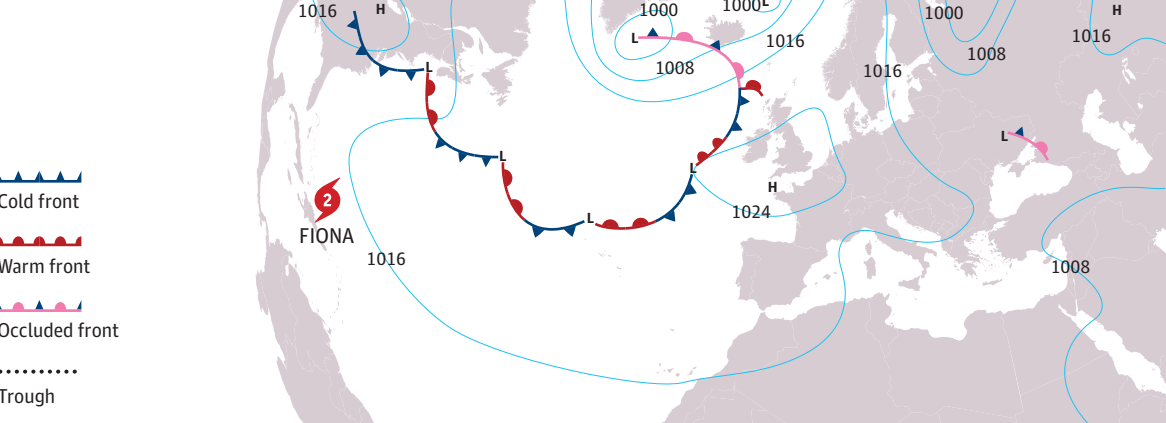
Latest	416.00
18 Sep 2022	416.00
Weekly average	
11 Sep 2022	416.05
19 Sep 2021	413.07
19 Sep 2012	391.10
Pre-industrial base	280
Safe level	350

Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

London	Lows and highs	Precipitation	Air pollution
	10 18	25%	Low
Manchester	9 17	25%	Low
Edinburgh	10 18	25%	Low
Belfast	11 17	10%	Low
Birmingham	9 18	25%	Low
Brighton	11 18	25%	Low
Bristol	11 17	20%	Low
Cardiff	11 18	15%	Low
Newcastle	8 17	25%	Low
Penzance	12 17	5%	Low

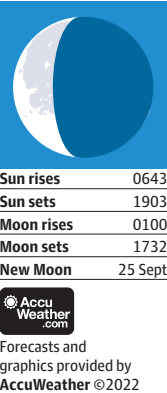
Atlantic front



High tides

Aberdeen	1030	3.2m	2253	3.4m
Avonmouth	0241	8.6m	1541	8.9m
Barrow	0812	6.5m	2046	6.9m
Belfast	0721	2.6m	1952	3.0m
Cobh	0104	3.0m	1411	3.0m
Cromer	0301	3.8m	1605	3.7m
Dover	0734	5.1m	2009	5.1m
Dublin	0835	3.1m	2057	3.4m
Galway	0233	3.5m	1458	3.8m
Greenock	0809	2.5m	2027	2.8m
Harwich	0719	3.1m	2036	3.1m
Holyhead	0721	4.1m	1952	4.4m
Hull	0215	5.4m	1511	5.3m
Leith	1114	4.1m	2346	4.3m
Liverpool	0746	6.7m	2025	7.0m
London Bridge	0927	5.2m	2228	5.4m
Lossiemouth	0833	3.0m	2059	3.2m
Milford Haven	0222	4.7m	1517	4.9m
Newquay	0121	4.8m	1414	5.0m
North Shields	--	--	1235	3.8m
Oban	0332	2.7m	1551	2.9m
Penzance	0059	3.9m	1345	4.1m
Plymouth	0045	4.0m	1356	4.2m
Portsmouth	0816	3.6m	2041	3.6m
Southport	0654	6.4m	1940	6.7m
Stornoway	0411	3.4m	1644	3.7m
Weymouth	0109	0.2m	0721	-0.1m
Whitby	0002	4.2m	1308	4.2m
Wick	0813	2.6m	2032	2.7m
Workington	0816	5.8m	2055	6.2m

Sun & Moon



Lighting up

Belfast	1929 to 0708
Birm'ham	1910 to 0651
Brighton	1904 to 0645
Bristol	1914 to 0655
Carlisle	1915 to 0655
Cork	1937 to 0718
Dublin	1929 to 0709
Glasgow	1922 to 0701
Harlech	1920 to 0700
Inverness	1921 to 0659
London	1903 to 0644
M'chester	1913 to 0653
Newcastle	1911 to 0650
Norwich	1858 to 0639
Penzance	1925 to 0707

Weather tracker

European countries around the Adriatic Sea experienced extreme flooding last week, with the Italian region of Marche particularly badly affected after a thunderstorm on Thursday. Some areas faced 400mm of rain in a couple of hours. Ten people have been confirmed dead and three others are missing. Satellite images showed the flood water flowing into the sea, turning the turquoise Adriatic coast brown. Croatia, Slovenia, Montenegro and Bosnia-Herzegovina also experienced thunderstorms, which caused floods and landslides. Although thunderstorms are not caused by the climate crisis, it is estimated that for every 1C of warming, the atmosphere can hold 7% more moisture. A warming world thus increases the chances of extreme rainfall, which heightens the risk of catastrophic flooding. These hot and humid conditions have been replaced by a northerly chill across most of Europe. Parts of the Alps have reported snowfall accumulating below 1,500 metres, unusual for this early. One of Japan's strongest typhoons, Nanmadol, made landfall at 11am BST on Sunday. Millions were told to evacuate as it approached with gusts close to 150mph. **Andrew Stewart Metdesk**

Around the world

	Algeria	28		Lisbon	27
	Ams'dam	16		Madrid	30
	Athens	27		Malaga	27
	Auckland	19		Melb'rne	18
	B Aires	16		Mexico C	22
	Bangkok	31		Miami	32
	Barcelona	24		Milan	24
	Basra	42		Mombasa	28
	Beijing	26		Moscow	14
	Berlin	14		Mumbai	30
	Bermuda	28		N Orleans	32
	Brussels	16		Nairobi	26
	Budapest	16		New Delhi	34
	C'hagen	15		New York	27
	Cairo	31		Oslo	12
	Cape Town	20		Paris	18
	Chicago	30		Perth	18
	Corfu	27		Prague	12
	Dakar	30		Reykjavik	13
	Dhaka	32		Rio de J	26
	Dublin	17		Rome	26
	Florence	26		Shanghai	25
	Gibraltar	24		Singapore	30
	H Kong	32		Stockh'm	10
	Harare	31		Strasb'g	17
	Helsinki	12		Sydney	21
	Istanbul	22		Tel Aviv	29
	Jo'burg	20		Tenerife	28
	K Lumpur	31		Tokyo	27
	K'mandu	27		Toronto	23
	Kabul	28		Vancouv'r	21
	Kingston	32		Vienna	14
	Kolkata	31		Warsaw	14
	L Angeles	26		Wash'ton	31
	Lagos	29		Well'ton	16
	Lima	16		Zurich	16

Football

Our writers reflect on WSL's opening weekend

Page 47 →

Cricket

England seek balance as tour of Pakistan begins

Andy Bull, page 44 →



Sport



▲ Todd Boehly has not adopted the deference shown by other past and present American owners of Premier League clubs
ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Atlantic crossing

The times they are a-changin' as Boehly speaks out in the voice of America

Jonathan Liew



Bob Dylan once had a piece of advice for aspiring artists: write 10 songs a day, and then discard nine. In a way this also appears to be Todd Boehly's approach to improving English football. He is just putting stuff out there, you see. Running ideas up the flagpole and seeing if anyone salutes. Throwing them out on the stoop and seeing if the cat licks them up. Not necessarily good ideas. Or practical ideas. Or popular ideas. Or ideas that bear the weight of a moment's logical thought. But ideas nonetheless. As such it is not necessary at this stage actually to engage what the Chelsea owner said on stage at Bros, Brews and Brunch business conference in Jerky Falls, Connecticut last week. Spoiler: none of this is actually going to happen. To soberly assess the merits of a north/south all-star game, or relegation playoffs, would be to lend these ideas more consideration and seriousness than Boehly has probably lent them himself. More interesting is the shrillness and scorn of the subsequent discourse: why the throwaway comments of a man named Todd seem to have created such a bruise on the psyche of English football. In large part this appears to boil down to Boehly being American but more specifically, a very particular kind of American. Boehly is by no means the first American guy trying to make his fortune in English football or to dream of changing it. But he is perhaps the first to be overtly, unashamedly, vocally ... American about it. In so doing he is tugging at a largely unresolved tension in our game: between the culture and outlook of the game itself and that of the people

who through ownership and viewership exert a greater influence on it than probably any other foreign nation. Most of Boehly's predecessors, of course, neatly sidestepped this tension with distance and deference. A strategic and affected deference, perhaps, but deference all the same. Randy Lerner at Aston Villa made a point of downplaying his Americanness, immersed himself in the traditions and history of the club and rebuilt the decaying Holte pub across the road from Villa Park. John Henry at Liverpool has strived to depict himself as a benevolent custodian rather than a career profiteer. Stan Kroenke and the Glazers, in common with many other foreign owners, have made a point of saying and doing as little as possible. There is an unspoken, often duplicitous compact here: hey, this is your thing, and we don't want to change it. And so for almost two decades, this has been the palpable extent of the American influx: a procession of wrinkly guys in baseball caps only ever glimpsed through the searching long lens of a Sky camera. On the pitch it was a similar story: insofar as Americans were tolerated it was as stalwart goalkeepers, burly defenders, technically limited strikers with large brows. In essence English football was basically fine with Americans as long as they silently wrote cheques or stayed in goal. Tonally Boehly is different. Boehly is neither distant nor deferent. If the Glazers are largely content to milk English football, Boehly wants to fatten it, clone it, put it on a diet of alfalfa and steroids and create the world's most decadent bionic steaks. Let's do all-star games and cheerleaders and the metaverse and a super league that we are not going to call a super league just yet. Let's buy Cristiano Ronaldo. Let's sack the weird gawky German guy. Let's install a bowling alley in Buckingham Palace. This, perhaps, explains the acid reflux that has greeted Boehly's ideas. In many ways he strikes at English football's primal fear, what one might even call its central delusion: that even as it sold off pieces of itself, flung out its sails and embraced the trade winds of global finance, danced and contorted itself for the market, it could retain its basic essence. That for all its foreign stars and foreign money the Premier League could somehow remain fundamentally, authentically English. And so whenever an overtly American influence reared its head - the rise of analytics, ageing players moving to Major League Soccer, Bob Bradley - it was invariably met with a mixture of defensiveness and derision. We saw it again last week, with Jürgen Klopp quipping about the "Harlem Globetrotters" and Gary Neville claiming that US investment was "a clear and present danger" to the game. We saw it in the ridicule that accompanied Jesse Marsch when he was appointed at Leeds United, in Adrian Chiles's deliciously over-the-top monologue as he introduced ITV's coverage of England v USA at the 2010 World Cup. "We really love Americans," he quipped. "We just couldn't eat a whole one." And so, as a thought exercise, what might an Americanised Premier League look like in practice? Perhaps you might start seeing loud music after goals, big furry mascots, steadily rising ticket prices, an explosion in corporate hospitality and a relentless focus on the customer experience, a competitive model that increasingly resembles a closed shop. You might start seeing Hollywood actors buying up a local club and turning it into streaming content, an American Premier League coach in charge of American players, being analysed on Monday Night Football by an American-owned broadcaster. You can celebrate these developments or lament them. But either way you would be casting judgment on something that has already happened.

Boehly strikes at English football's primal fear



◀ Moeen Ali will captain England in the first T20 today in Karachi

ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY

Moeen takes charge in Pakistan with odd squad under his wing

T20 captain needs to balance fresh faces with those players preparing for the World Cup

Andy Bull
Karachi



Moeen Ali has been waiting for this tour. He has been dreaming about it since he felt he had earned his place in the England team. But he never imagined he would be captain when it finally happened. "It's a great honour regardless of who it's against," Moeen says, "but to do it in Pakistan when the team are coming back here, that's amazing for me personally, especially when I have family who migrated from here back in the day."

His grandfather moved to England from Kashmir after the second world war and his mother was born here. He spent time playing here as a child and again, more recently, in the Pakistan Super League.

"I'm somebody that wants to play cricket in every nation," Moeen says, "and Pakistan especially, after so long." It has been 17 years since England were last here. His decision to play in the PSL in 2020 was, he says, because he wanted to help play his part in "putting Pakistan cricket back on the map". He sees this tour as an extension of that. "I wanted to

be part of this. It's a big thing when England come to Pakistan, more than any other country, England's the one that the Pakistan fans really love to see coming here."

His phone has not stopped ringing since he arrived. He has an uncle who lives here and plenty of friends too. "I've had so many messages" - most of them asking if he can help dig up tickets - "that it's a bit of a killer for me." But he is happy to have the distraction. He is obviously frustrated with the tight security for the tour and the way he and the team are sealed off from the city in Karachi. He brought his wife and children out when he was playing in the PSL and in between training this week he has been stuck in the team room, reading, chatting, playing cards.

He says the restrictions are going to shape his decision about whether or not to make himself available for the Test matches here in December. He had seemed enthusiastic when Brendon McCullum floated the idea

of picking him earlier in the summer but he seems to have pulled back from that. "I'm not sure yet," he says. "I want to see how this goes. I don't like being stuck in a hotel for so long so I'm going to see how I cope with this as well."

It was frustrating for him that England pulled out of their planned tour here last year but he is phlegmatic about it now. "Obviously there was still a little bit of Covid then, so you don't know what the restrictions might have been. At least now everybody can come. I'm a big believer that when things aren't easy, if you have a bit of patience, then they become easy." That idea seems to be on his mind. It comes up again when he is talking about the state of the team before the T20 World Cup next month.

"It's not my style to be desperate for something," Moeen says. "It is important we don't put pressure on ourselves and say: 'We are going to win a World Cup.' We have been such a good side over the last two or three years but we have missed out too, which is about weight of expectation. I think we need to focus on one game. Let's play our best cricket and not worry about the end result. That will take care of itself. The World Cup in 2019 was different. We were the favourites, but I don't think we are favourites now. I think we are one of the better sides, not favourites."

England have brought an odd

'Pakistan are also having a bit of a transition. I expect a tight series'

Moeen Ali
England T20 captain

First T20 Karachi

3.30pm

29°

Pakistan

Possible
B Azam (capt),
S Masood, M Harris
(wkt), I Ahmed,
M Nawaz, K Shah, A Ali,
S Khan, H Rauf, N Shah,
M Hasnain

England

Possible
A Hales, W Jacks,
D Malan, H Brook, P Salt
(wkt), M Ali (capt),
S Curran, D Willey,
A Rashid, R Gleeson,
O Stone

Umpires A Dar (Pak) and A Yaqoob (Pak)

Third umpire A Raza (Pak) Referee J Malik (Pak)

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▼ England's squad and staff observe a minute's silence to mark the Queen's funeral

ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY



squad here. It has been picked with one eye on the World Cup and the other on bringing new players through for the years after. It includes four players - Jos Buttler, Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, and Reece Topley - who will miss the opening game today because they are working their way back to fitness in time for the World Cup, and six more - Will Jacks, Tom Helm, Jordan Cox, Luke Wood, Ben Duckett and Olly Stone - who were not picked for the tournament. All that uncertainty means Moeen has taken on a different role. This is Buttler's team but it is clear, listening to Moeen here, that he is leading, too, and not just at the toss.

He has some strong ideas about what went wrong this summer, when the team lost series against South Africa and India. "This summer was quite poor for us. We didn't play very well at all." He says they spent too much time talking about the way they used to do things when Eoin Morgan was captain. "We used to do this", "We used to do that" or "The reason why we were so good was this". We have to move on from that now. It is not easy for Jos coming in and taking over from Eoin but it is Jos's side now. I think this is going to be the starting point. You are going to see a real change in the way the side goes about things."

They will still want to be "brave and be aggressive, like we always have been" but "there also needs to be more of a method to it", he says. "This summer we were going out and trying to be really aggressive and we were being bowled out." It's hardest for the more inexperienced players. "They've seen the way we've played over the last four or five years and they think they need to come in and go bang, bang, bang with the bat. But actually it doesn't need to be that. We need to get that balance right."

Pakistan are in a similar position, with Shaheen Shah Afridi and Fakhar Zaman out injured and three debutants in this format in their squad, including Shan Masood, who made so many runs for Derbyshire this summer. "Both teams are probably on the same level. We've got players missing, they've got a couple missing, they're also having a bit of a transition even though they're playing well, I'm expecting a really hard series, a tight series." And an exciting series. It is the nature of T20 that games come and go but he, at least, will surely remember these seven long after they are over.

South Korea breathes a sigh of relief for its favourite Son

Saturday's rapid hat-trick ended a goalless spell that did not worry Spurs too much but had a rapt nation fretting

John Duerden

Son Heung-min's spectacular 13-minute hat-trick against Leicester on Saturday ended his eight-game barren run, or 'silence' as it was called in South Korea. As those Tottenham matches came and went without a goal, the mood back in east Asia grew ever gloomier, becoming darkest just before the Seoul dawn last week when the forward was substituted in the 2-0 defeat against Sporting in Lisbon.

However much was said in England about a dry patch that felt longer because it stretched from the start of the season, the conversation was louder in the Land of the Morning Calm. With the Taeguk Warriors' hopes of a place in the knockout stages in Qatar looking to depend largely on Son's form and fitness, worries were understandable but it could be that some bench time for him would not have been the worst thing for South Korea's World Cup hopes.

The last time the 30-year-old arrived at Incheon International Airport was in May when he held the Premier League golden boot aloft for adoring fans and excited photographers. The three goals at the weekend mean that, when he steps off the plane from London to play in warm-ups against Costa Rica on Friday and Cameroon four days later, it is less likely that he will receive the kind of questions that were fielded by the national team coach, Paulo Bento, last week when the Portuguese was asked about his captain. "There is no concern and I feel the same as when he's scoring a lot," Bento said. "We will focus on what we must do in these two games and I have all the confidence in him as usual. I do not intend to talk to him about it."

These past few weeks have highlighted how one player dominates the national team landscape to an extent that may not be healthy for a country that has long wrestled with the challenge of how to bridge the gap between being an Asian powerhouse and becoming an established global player. For the first time in years, since perhaps 2015 when he signed for Spurs from Bayer Leverkusen, Son was not looking like Son and nobody knew what to make of

► Son Heung-min takes the plaudits and match ball after his hat-trick
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR FC VIA GETTY IMAGES

it. The sight of the forward on the bench as the game started on Saturday made headlines in north London and South Korea.

The forward has, over the last four-year cycle, played more than most and travelled more than pretty much anyone. For his club there have been punishing English and European commitments as well as the occasional north American and east Asian tour but he has really racked up the air miles for his country. There was the 2018 World Cup in Russia, the 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia (where he helped the team win gold and himself get exemption

from military service, though he still had to spend three weeks training in 2020) and the 2019 Asian Cup in the United Arab Emirates. Add qualification for Qatar with games all over Asia, plenty of home friendlies (the London-Seoul round trip is a punishing one that Park Ji-sung ended up struggling with when at Manchester United) and a wide range of commercial activities and there have been a few whispers of late wondering whether he has taken on too much, off the pitch - from a hugely marketable star then it would be a surprise if Son had not been feeling a little sluggish.

The hat-trick probably means less bench time for Spurs in the lead up to South Korea's 10th successive World Cup with group games against Uruguay, Ghana and Portugal. It is unlikely there will be any rest for his country because he has been selected by Bento whenever the opportunity has allowed, whether it be competitive or friendly.

There have been a few criticisms of the coach's four years in charge

and a big one is that he does not seem to have found, or even tried to find, a way to win games that does not depend on Son.

That could perhaps explain why there have been times in the past when Son has shone brightly for Spurs but looked less happy when wearing the red, or whatever shade of the colour Nike insists on manufacturing, of the 2002 World Cup semi-finalists. The burden of expectations of an entire nation can be heavy and the 30 year-old often tries to do too much himself.

Media in South Korea breathed a sigh of relief on Saturday but it would have been fascinating had Son not played or scored against Leicester, to see how all sides would have handled this international break. The Chuncheon native has usually come home full of smiles and goals, only to look laboured for South Korea. So perhaps club troubles and a spell on the bench could have produced something different at national team level. Given his weekend heroics, we will probably never know.



For the first time in years Son was not looking like Son and nobody knew what to make of it

Rooney acts swiftly to defuse alleged racism incident

Wayne Rooney and Phil Neville had to deal with an alleged racism incident after an ugly clash between two of their players in an MLS game on Sunday.

Play was held up for several minutes during the encounter between Rooney's DC United and Neville's Inter Miami at Audi Field in Washington. The United forward Taxi Fountas was accused of racially abusing Inter's defender Damion Lowe during a second-half altercation between the pair.

Rooney and his opposite number Neville, former Manchester United and England teammates, were summoned to talk to the referee, Ismail Elfath, after tensions boiled over on the pitch. Neville discussed whether his players should leave the field during the four-minute stoppage, but play did eventually continue after Rooney substituted Fountas.

"There was a racist comment that was unacceptable," Neville said. "A word was used that I think is unacceptable in society. I think it's the worst word in the world. There is no place at all for racism on a football field or society. I must commend my players for keeping their calm, I must commend the referee - [in] a really difficult situation he followed the protocols set out by the MLS - and I must give massive, massive respect to Wayne Rooney for dealing with it in the way that he did. I have always known him as a class act and today he went up in my estimation more than he has ever done, more than any goal he has ever scored."

The incident occurred in the 59th minute as the Greece international Fountas, who had scored moments earlier, got involved in a scuffle with Lowe. Inter Miami players gathered and ultimately Rooney took Fountas out of the game, and play resumed. Miami's DeAndre Yedlin said: "If nothing was done, we weren't going to continue."

An MLS spokesman told ESPN: "MLS has zero tolerance for abusive and offensive language and we take these allegations very seriously. An investigation into this matter will begin promptly."

Elfath is quoted as saying that neither he nor any of the on-field officials heard a racial slur being used. The incident was also checked by VAR. Miami won 3-2 with a late goal from Gonzalo Higuain. **Agencies**



Wayne Rooney took off his DC United player involved in the incident

▼ England's Euro 2022 matches were played in great atmospheres
CHARLOTTE WILSON/OFFSIDE/GETTY IMAGES

WSL shows a thriving new culture for football – free from toxic masculinity

➔ Continued from back page

no police horses at all. I was going to see Lady Gaga. The show was excellent. I cheered, I danced, I cried, I sang; I did everything that I might do at an amazing football match. But I wasn't groped. I didn't hear any racism. I saw gay people embrace each other. I saw little girls being lifted on to their father's shoulders. This past summer I saw similar scenes in the crowds when watching the Euro 2022 on TV.

On Sunday I travelled to the King Power Stadium to see Leicester take on Spurs on the opening weekend of the Women's Super League. I was surrounded by families in a crowd where the majority were women and girls. Even though they didn't

▼ Fans at the King Power Stadium for the WSL opener against Spurs
JEZ TIGHE/PROSPORT/SHUTTERSTOCK

hurl abuse at the opposing fans, or players, they cared as deeply as any other football fans. This should go without saying – but when you have grown up watching men's football in this country, you start to believe you can't have passion without aggression.

At the stadium Marcus Baines and his daughter Phoebe (seven, nearly eight) were at their first WSL match since buying a season ticket. "It's as serious for the fans [as with the men's games] but I don't think there's so much tension," he said. "Some fans for the men go to cause trouble but in the ladies' game we feel they don't and it's more of a mixed atmosphere."

It is a sentiment shared by the Gibsons, frequent visitors to the WSL and season-ticket holders to the Spurs men's team. The differences between the men's and women's crowds boil down

to inclusivity and an appreciation for the football over the rivalries. "You'll find with women's football that you kind of just enjoy the game and appreciate the football more," Kim said. Like me, Kim was taken to football when she was younger by her father. "I think when we went to matches back then it's just what it was, that's what we expected," she said. "Personally I feel really comfortable coming to a women's game, I could bring the girls on my own and feel safe."

That feeling of innate safety came across a lot. Emily Williams, who came along with her daughter Elly, said: "I worry about the men's matches more with the children going along. I take my son and they can feel a bit intimidating. I feel like I can't protect him if something goes wrong, but women's matches feel a lot safer."

Many of the WSL fans at the



King Power Stadium go to pains to remind me women's and men's football are very different, so making comparisons is difficult and perhaps foolish. It is difficult and probably unhelpful to the women's game from a football perspective – the game is played differently and the rivalries are not the same. But from the point of view of a fan a lot of it felt very similar: the swell of energy from the crowd after a good pass; the applause for a well-timed tackle; the elation with a goal.

The frustrations did not progress into hostility, they did not boil over into abuse

The audible frustrations of a bad touch or a wasted pass were there too, but with a notable difference. The little frustrations did not progress into outright hostility, they did not boil over into abuse. Tottenham's Ashleigh Neville was booed like a pantomime villain for much of the second half as she went down a little too easily while Leicester were on the break. Was it nice? Probably not. But it never became personal, they didn't call her names, they didn't chant a song about her personal life and I would hope she did not get harassed on social media after the match.

Sitting at a competitive WSL match, going to a massive stadium show, seeing the Lionesses sell out



Wembley, it makes me think again about what it means to occupy these spaces that dominate the skyline of our towns and cities, that generate some of the best moments of our lives. Those of us who watch men’s football hear a lot about the atmosphere these spaces generate. It is coveted, every fan wants to feel it and it can’t be artificially created with a Mexican wave. Atmosphere, as far as we were brought up to believe in this country, means aggression, it means intimidation. The fact that this comes with sexual abuse, racism and homophobia? Well, that’s just a few bad apples.

But we’re wrong, we were always wrong.

I can say now that I am deeply ashamed of how I have always equated the perfect atmosphere in stadiums with masculinity. Through the increasing popularity of women’s football and the use of Premier League stadiums for more than sport we’re showing that these spaces are for everyone. Toxic masculinity should not dictate what it means to create an atmosphere – because when we let it, we let everything that it encompasses flourish.

Football fans like to convince ourselves that racism happens in football because racism happens everywhere. And that’s true. But why were there no reports of homophobic abuse in the grounds during Euro 2022 this year? Why were there no reports of violence from the two nights that Lady Gaga sold out Tottenham Hotspur Stadium? Why would a father happily take his young daughter to a WSL match but think again before taking her to a Premier League one? The reason is men’s football has become a safe space for violence, racism, homophobia and misogyny over decades of reinforcement. By making football grounds a safe space for everyone we can truly rid the game of the aspects that tarnish the enjoyment of it for the vast majority of us. If putting rainbows in stadiums makes people uncomfortable, do more of it. If some men feel it’s no longer “their club” because they can’t sing the antisemitic chant they used to sing in the 1970s, then let them stay home. We do not need them. Football does not need them.

Making women, ethnic minorities and the LGBTQ+ community feel uncomfortable on and off the pitch at football matches has been the tactic used by toxic masculinity for decades, and the governing bodies and the clubs have been complicit in not doing enough to tackle the issues. But, if their inaction is steeped in fears of a loss of atmosphere or – even more reprehensibly – a loss of revenue, they need not worry. Because it turns out 70,000 people shed a tear as Lady Gaga sat at her piano in the middle of a football pitch in July and 87,000 people sang Sweet Caroline when the Lionesses won the European Championship.

We don’t need aggression and hatred to create an atmosphere. In fact it is better if we don’t have it. Actually, it is a lot better.



Stina Blackstenius hinted at a big season in Arsenal’s victory

Chelsea’s Sam Kerr was denied a goal by an incorrect offside call

Talking points

The Daly-Dali show and a century for United’s Zelem

Controversial calls hinder Chelsea

Liverpool recovered from a goal down to stun Chelsea at Prenton Park, on their return to the Women’s Super League after a two-year absence. As early as the first minute chaos ensued. Gilly Flaherty was penalised in the box for fouling Guro Reiten and Fran Kirby converted the spot-kick. It seemed there might be a second for Chelsea. And there should have been when Sam Kerr latched on to a sumptuous ball from Kirby and lifted the ball into the net – only for the flag to be raised. Further inspection from fans on social media proved the decision should not have been called offside, with Kerr marginally ahead of her marker but played onside by another defender. The Australian had another goal ruled out before Liverpool struck with a penalty of their own, Katie Stengel scoring after a long throw from Megan Campbell was harshly adjudged to have been handled by Millie Bright. Stengel calmly repeated the trick five minutes before full time to make it 2-1. **Maryam Naz**

City sorely miss Walsh

Aston Villa edged a see-saw match against Manchester City, with their summer signings Rachel Daly and Kenza Dali leading them to a 4-3 win. Both thwarted the best efforts of a City midfield sorely missing Keira Walsh. Her absence left Laia Aleixandri with too much to do; the Spaniard was unable to stop Alisha Lehmann from opening the scoring in the 22nd minute or Daly from doubling the lead 10 minutes later. City did temporarily disrupt the Villa flow with a goal from Laura Coombs just before half-time and two more shortly after the interval. But a vital strike from Dali and a second from Daly ensured a historic win for the hosts. Villa looked

bolstered by their signings. City will have to stew and reconsider how best to use theirs. **MN**

Big season awaits Blackstenius?

It took Arsenal a while to find their rhythm against the 10 players of Brighton on Friday night but, when it started to click, it did so in resounding fashion. Clearly Jonas Eidevall has benefited from a relatively settled summer, in contrast to some rival clubs who have more closely resembled a revolving door. The press was hungry and organised, the combinations around the 18-yard box smooth and well drilled. And, although Vivianne Miedema and Beth Mead will continue to harvest most of the attention, Stina Blackstenius up front is becoming an increasingly influential force: equally comfortable as a focal point, linking play or making decoy runs in the channels to create space for teammates. On the early evidence Blackstenius could be in for a big season. **Jonathan Liew**

Zelem’s century statement

Maya Le Tissier’s dream debut in Manchester United’s 4-0 win against Reading dominated headlines but attention should also be paid to the accuracy of the delivery for the centre-back’s two goals. Katie Zelem, United’s captain, whipped in the corners for the 20-year-old Le Tissier’s goals and converted from the spot after Alessia Russo was deemed to have been brought down by Grace Moloney. Zelem was making her 100th United appearance and was critical to the team’s opening win. If there is any concern for United, who hope to break into the Champions League for the first time, it will perhaps be that they did not build on their four-goal advantage in the second half. But

one game in, that is perhaps a harsh criticism. United have time to build on their performances across the 90 minutes: they do not play one of the traditional big three until Chelsea’s visit on 6 November. **Suzanne Wrack**

Neville shines for Spurs

Ashleigh Neville’s performance on Sunday summed up everything about Rehanne Skinner’s Tottenham: energetic, passionate and tenacious with a touch of feistiness and the ability to turn on the spectacular. The Spurs vice-captain’s strike was perhaps the pick of the weekend: a curling effort from more than 35 yards to give her side the lead against the run of play. Tottenham had to dig deep for the three points against a resilient Leicester. Despite taking a 2-0 lead before the break, they had to deal with a strong second-half response from a team backed by a partisan crowd. Neville was at the heart of their performance throughout, covering every blade of grass to ensure the visitors remained on top. **Sophie Downey**

Konchesky’s winning start

Paul Konchesky edged the battle of the new managers as Lisa Evans’s first-half goal gave West Ham the win against Brian Sørensen’s Everton. Evans, who joined from Arsenal after spending last season on loan with the Hammers, headed home just before half-time after the visitors failed to clear a corner. Konchesky, who was assistant to Ollie Harder at West Ham last season, has embarked on a huge overhaul. Five of his 12 signings (which included the deals for Evans and another former Arsenal loanee, Halle Houssein) were named in West Ham’s starting XI. The Japan forward Honoka Hayashi, who joined on deadline day after the departure of her international teammate Yui Hasegawa for Manchester City, was among them. With the squad still getting to know each other, and Evans the only familiar face in the front three, there can be little doubt West Ham’s attacking threat will improve as players bed in. **SW**

Football In brief

La Liga

League and mayor want action over Vinícius row

La Liga will deliver a formal report to the Spanish Football Federation’s disciplinary committee and the State’s anti-violence commission, denouncing the racist abuse directed at the Real Madrid winger Vinícius Júnior by Atlético Madrid fans before Sunday’s derby. The mayor of the city, José Luis Martínez-Almeida, has expressed his wish that those responsible are identified and banned from football stadiums in Spain. Fans were filmed chanting “Vinícius is a monkey” before the game. **Sid Lowe**

Tottenham

Lloris injury hands Spurs a derby headache

The Tottenham captain Hugo Lloris has emerged as an injury concern before next month’s north London derby with Arsenal. The 35-year-old linked up with the French national team yesterday but has since left with an injury to his right thigh. Spurs travel to the league leaders, Arsenal, on 1 October. **PA Media**

Results

Tennis

WTA PAN PACIFIC OPEN (Ariake, Japan)
First round: E Mertens (Bel) bt Wang Q (Chn) 6-0 6-3; D Papamichail (Gre) bt You X-d (Chn) 6-4 6-2; Zheng Q (Chn) bt M Doi (Jpn) 6-2 6-4; C Liu (US) bt A Riske-Amritraj (US) 6-2 6-3; P Martić (Cro) bt R Saigo (Jpn) 6-1 6-1; Wang X-y (Chn) bt E Perez (Aus) 7-5 1-6 6-4.

WTA KOREA OPEN (Seoul)
First round: Han N-l (Kor) bt D Back (Kor) 6-1 6-1; Zhu L (Chn) bt Jang S-j (Kor) 6-3 6-4; K Birrell (Aus) bt P Hon (Aus) 6-4 4-6 6-4; L Sun (Swi) bt L Cabrera (Aus) 7-6 (8-6) 6-2.

Fixtures

Football (7.45pm unless stated)
Papa John’s EFL Trophy
Northern section: Group A Morecambe v Hartlepool (7pm). Group B Crewe v Leeds U21 (7pm); Tranmere v Bolton (7pm). Group C Shrewsbury v Port Vale (7pm); Stockport County v Wolves U21 (7.30pm). Group D Rochdale v Liverpool U21 (7pm); Salford City v Accrington Stanley (7pm). Group E Barnsley v Newcastle U21 (7pm); Lincoln City v Doncaster (7pm). Group F Derby v Man City U21 (7pm); Grimsby v Mansfield (7.30pm). Group G Carlisle v Fleetwood Town (7pm). Group H Sheff Wed v Burton Albion (7pm)
Southern section: Group B AFC Wimbledon v Crawley Town. Group C Cheltenham v Walsall (7pm). Group D Peterborough v Tottenham U21 (7.30pm); Stevenage v Wycombe (7pm). Group E Swindon v Plymouth (7pm). Group F Newport County v Forest Green. Group G Leyton Orient v Sutton Utd (7pm). Group H Ipswich v Arsenal U21; Northampton v Cambridge Utd (7pm)
cinch Scottish League 2
Stranraer v Dumbarton; East Fife v Stenhousemuir
Nathaniel MG Welsh League Cup
Third round Afan Lido v Pontypridd; Buckley Town v Gresford Athletic; Caernarfon Town v Bala Town; Cardiff Met Uni v Aberystwyth Town; Connah’s Quay v Holywell Town; Penybont v Ammanford; Taffs Well v Haverfordwest County
Danske Bank Northern Irish Premiership
Linfield v Larne
Rugby union
Premiership Cup
Pool 1 Exeter v Bath (7.45pm). **Pool 2** Sale v Leicester (7.45pm); Wasps v Newcastle (7.45pm)
Cricket (10.30am unless stated)
First Twenty20 International
Pakistan v England, Karachi (3.30pm)
First Twenty20 International
India v Australia, Mohali (3pm)
LV= Insurance County Championship (first day of four)
Division One Essex v Lancashire, Chelmsford; Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Bristol; Hampshire v Kent, Ageas Bowl; Somerset v Northamptonshire, Taunton; Surrey v Yorkshire, the Oval
Division Two Durham v Sussex, Riverside; Glamorgan v Derbyshire, Swalec Stadium; Leicestershire v Middlesex, Grace Road; Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire, New Road

'Class act'
Rooney praised
by Neville for
his handling
of racism storm



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Shining Son
Spurs striker's
hat-trick brings
sense of relief
to South Korea



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The Guardian
Tuesday 20 September 2022



Sport



JAVIER GARCIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

'He strikes at English football's primal fear'

Jonathan Liew on the very anti-American reaction to Todd Boehly's ideas for change

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Pakistan fans 'overjoyed' to see England, says Jordan

Sachin Nakrani

Chris Jordan believes spectators in Karachi will be "overjoyed" to see England play on Pakistan soil for the first time in 17 years.

England face Pakistan in the first of seven Twenty20 matches and as part of the country's return to the international scene since the end of a decade-long absence that followed the terror attack on Sri Lanka's team bus in 2009. England cancelled a first visit there since 2005 last year but are now in situ and likely to be greeted by a sellout crowd of 35,000 spectators at Karachi's National Stadium today.

Although a fractured finger means he will be watching from afar, Jordan knows what to expect. When the Pakistan Super League returned home for the first time for the 2017 final, he and Dawid Malan agreed to make the journey with Peshawar Zalmi, while other overseas players including Kevin Pietersen, Luke Wright and Brendon McCullum, now the England Test coach, opted out. The seamer has since been back to play in three more editions of the tournament and feels sure England's presence in Pakistan represents a huge moment for the nation.

"The guys should expect a very warm welcome," Jordan said. "It should be loud and it should be a great atmosphere. The passion for cricket is burning deep over there. It's important for the Pakistani players to represent their country at home and it's important to support them."

Jordan should be fit in time to join England's tour of Australia next month. "It's been about four weeks since the injury and the splint comes off in a few days. Then it's about getting movement in the joint, releasing the ball well. In the meantime I'm topping up my strength work." England's Test squad will travel to Pakistan in December for a three-match series.

Andy Bull's preview Page 44 →



▲ Chris Jordan says England will receive a warm welcome in Pakistan

No place for toxic men Women's football shows the game thrives without tribes

Attending a WSL match can be fun and safe - without the groping and cat calls at Premier League games, writes **Jess Hayes**

The first time I was groped at a Premier League match I was 13. I was there with my dad, we had season tickets and were squeezing past a row of men in the 88th minute to beat the crowds to the tube. I didn't say anything and it wasn't the last time it happened that season, either. The season before that I won a competition and got the chance to be a ball girl at Wembley during a Charity Shield match. Every time I ran to collect the ball I was

wolf-whistled and cat-called by a section of the fans. I was 12.

In these experiences and many more I knew I was an interloper and in my mind I had no choice but to accept the rewards of that along with everything else. The rewards were the atmosphere and getting to see my team play, everything else being the groping, the lingering stares, the cat calling; in addition to being exposed to the unchecked and extreme racism, the casual homophobia and the aggressive abuse of players on both sides.

I was never sporty, I had no

interest in playing football and I didn't see many examples of women playing football to look up to even if I did. My exposure to football was what I saw on TV and the excitement it invoked in my brother and my dad. Where else was I going to get that excitement? When I went to the football I was lucky to be there, to experience that feeling of unified love for your team and hatred for the other team. I felt like I'd been inducted into a secret society that not many girls got to experience. I wasn't going to ruin it by complaining.

Just over 20 years later, this past summer, I visited Tottenham Hotspur Stadium for the first time. On a balmy July day I had that familiar walk up to the ground you get when you go to any big football stadium in the country. Seeing it in the distance and striding up with swagger. Except this was different. I wasn't wearing my club's colours, I wasn't surrounded by men chanting, trying to intimidate the locals and the police horses. In fact, there were

“It’s a midlife crisis on steroids!



Jackass's Steve-O

The Guardian



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& Arts

Zoe Williams

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How we made Eurotrash

'Back then there were no limits'
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Zoe Williams

Don't underestimate Liz Truss's ability to inflict serious damage

It's easy to miss, when you have a prime minister who doesn't look quite up to the job, how much damage they can do. I made this mistake with Theresa May and Brexit. How could she pull off such a seismic thing, requiring so much persuasion, when she couldn't even convincingly say hello to a small group of people? Surely all we had to do was wait and the whole thing would implode? I was right in so far as she couldn't make Brexit happen, but failed to predict how much worse the project would be by the time she had finished trying.

In the spirit of not underestimating Liz Truss, then, let's take a look at her team: her chief of staff is Mark Fullbrook, interviewed by the FBI about work he did for a Venezuelan-Italian banker accused of bribing the governor of Puerto Rico. (In the interests of fairness, we should spell out that he was spoken to as a potential witness, not a suspect.) A Lynton Crosby acolyte and very longtime Conservative campaigner, Fullbrook is known to have nice manners because that is a thing in Downing Street now. If you don't scream at people the whole time, you're the one-eyed man in the land of the blind.

There are two policy guys called James Harries and Jamie Hope, both so young that it's considered impolite to ask where they came from as the answer would be "school". Special adviser Sophie Jarvis is ex-Adam Smith Institute, director of strategy Iain Carter worked with Crosby and Fullbrook, another spad, Jason Stein, worked for Prince Andrew, and the chief economic adviser, Matthew Sinclair, used to run the TaxPayers' Alliance pressure group. Vote Leave, the rightwing gossip site Guido Fawkes and the Centre for Policy Studies supply the rest of the background to this vividly zealous, ideologically homogeneous set, whose mantra is: shrink the state.

Policy wonks and more left-leaning thinktanks spend a lot of time analysing what state-shrinking looks like across a range of scenarios: in social security terms, it means *this* many children without school uniform, in the NHS it means *these* staff shortages, *those* waiting lists, in infrastructure terms it means: "Let's hope the French and Chinese can fund it, and who cares if they then own it?", in levelling up terms it means: "Ha, did any of you actually swallow that nonsense?"

But that domino picture of decline, one disaster knocking into another, is just the fun-to-watch outcome. The first and last beneficiaries of shrinking the state and worshipping the market are the super-rich: not the middle-classes, not the small and medium-sized businesses, not the hard-grafting wealth creators, but those of high net worth.

This is modern Conservatism - it works flat out in the interests of a class to which only a handful of its key players belong. The party's main donors now are hedge-funders and property developers, so you could find an explanation there: of course the Tories have to prioritise the HNWs otherwise where are they going to find a spare 10 grand - down the back of the constituency office sofa? But that reasoning doesn't quite get there for me, or at least, not all the way: what would propel a person, who is probably paid quite modestly by super-rich standards, to endlessly push the cause of their wealthy overlords? Are they thinking: "One day, I, too, will have an estate like Jacob Rees-Mogg's, or a £180 mug like Rishi Sunak - I just have to go back in time and be high-born, or marry a billionaire"?

I meet the thinktankers periodically on current affairs shows, mainly from the Institute of Economic Affairs, and sometimes think their worldview has a religious quality: "Those rich people are simply better than us; they exist in a state of grace. Why question it, when it's so obvious?" It would be easier to counter if they said it out loud but they never talk about "rich people", only "markets".

And when they say "state", of course, they mean us. They plan to shrink us, our opportunities, our lives. Don't underestimate them. You don't have to be competent, still less logical, to make a hell of a mess.



I've turned the radio off. It may never go on again

Up until now, I've never deliberately turned the radio off. OK, caveats: I'll turn it right down if people are trying to talk to me, I'll make a mad leap if the Archers comes on, to a different station, but I won't turn it off. Radio 4 has been a lifelong susurrant, sometimes so ambient I don't even get annoyed by it, sometimes so annoying it's like the permanent low-level siren in a nuclear power plant. And still I don't turn it off.

Then, maybe eight days ago, I unplugged the radio and have lived in this cave of silence since. There was no final straw or particular anti-royal sentiment. I have nothing against fervent monarchism, sincerely expressed: it was merely the sound of people aping royalism, the performative respect, above all the repetitiveness. It's such a fundamental principle of broadcasting, that whatever you say, you can't say it twice.

Six days ago, I gave it one more chance, only to find Today presenters trying to amp up the nation's solemnity by talking more slowly. Honestly, the insult: we have to hear the same thing an infinite number of times, but now it's going to take much longer.

Here are the downsides: without Thought for the Day, there's no longer a cue to have a shower, so my personal hygiene has taken a hit; I have no clue what has happened in the sports; I don't even know if sports are still occurring; I don't know what the weather is like elsewhere in the country. I've been going to Twitter for the news, so US politics has undue prominence, but at least the climate crisis is at the centre of everything.

It's possible that I will never turn Radio 4 back on, and the second half of life sounds completely different from the first. Or, more likely, I get sucked back in by Soul Music, and normality resumes midweek.



Pass notes



Nº 4,461

Queue romance

Age: Newly sprung, but short-lived.

Appearance: Like love, but also like a journey.

Isn't love already a journey of sorts? Yes, but this was an actual 13-hour journey. On foot.

Where to? To pay one's respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II.

And did people find love in the queue then?

Is that what's going on here? Well, that's what everyone wanted to believe. There was one couple, Jack and Zoe, who met in line to see the Queen's lying in state at 10.30pm on Friday, when the growing queue was already edging over the 5-mile mark.

And they hit it off? By the time they were interviewed by Channel 4 the next day, they had been together in the queue all night.

It's not as if they had a choice. Maybe not, but as they bonded over "crisps and chat", there was clearly a spark. Zoe called their chance meeting "a blessing in disguise".

Any awkward moments? Apparently not. "I thought I was going to be exhausted but it's just gone so quickly in the queue," said Zoe.

Which left the British public rooting for them? As you can imagine, the news clip of the smitten couple became a bit of a viral hit.

With people making jokes about the romcom possibilities offered by this unlikely meeting? Exactly: "Queue, Actually", "Four Queues and a Funeral", etc.

That doesn't really work, because there was only one queue. How about "14-Hour Queue and a Funeral"?

It's better, except earlier you made it clear the queue was only 13 hours. This is Richard Curtis's job, not mine.

So will Jack and Zoe meet again? They already have! The pair went to watch the Queen's state funeral in Hyde Park together.

That's quite a weird second date. Ah, but here is where the romance ends. It turns out that they both have long-term partners.

Gutted! I know, right. "Jack is a great guy, we get on brilliantly, but we both have long-term partners - I am getting married next year. Not only that, but there's also a 10-year age gap between Jack and I!" Zoe told the Daily Mail.

Devastating. As a nation we needed this. "It is nice to think we may have cheered people up in a period of mourning, but I'm sorry for anyone who hoped that we might get together to say it is purely platonic," added Jack.

Well, hopefully another couple who met in the record-shattering queue to view a long-serving British monarch's coffin will come forward? We'll have to wait and see.

Do say: "And I will walk 5.1 miles, and I will walk 5.1 more ..."

Don't say: "She went to the loo and never came back, but I'll search the kingdom until I find the girl who fits this wristband."



The mantra of her vividly zealous Downing St staff is: shrink the state

This is how home tastes

Far from their families, a group of young refugees have recreated their favourite dishes for a new cookbook. **Polly Russell** hears their stories



Ali Saleh Sany's kebab mula



Left: Suduba Akbari prepares chicken korma. Right, Adam Mohammed and Mahmood Idris Abdulrahman make salad aswat



When Suduba Akbari, a former member of the junior Afghan women's football team, boarded a flight in July 2021 to escape the Taliban, she probably could not imagine that 18 months later she would be spending an evening as a VIP guest at Leeds Civic Hall. Next month, however, in the same building where the Queen's death and King's proclamation were formally announced, Akbari and 29 other unaccompanied minor asylum seekers, along with social workers, carers and city officials, will gather to celebrate the completion of a year-long cookery book project called Cooked with Love.

Originally conceived by social worker and Leeds city's lead for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, Louise Sidibe, Cooked with Love involves groups of young refugees from Afghanistan, Iran, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Chad. Without exception, every one of the people involved has endured unimaginable hardship and loss.

Ali Saleh Sany, for instance, arrived in the UK in 2021, at the age of 15, in the back of a lorry he had smuggled himself on to in Belgium. Sitting in his bedroom in Leeds last week, wearing a baseball cap and red T-shirt, Saleh Sany could be mistaken for a typical British teenager, but in fact he spent his life in refugee camps in Sudan and Chad.

When he was 14, with the

situation in Chad deteriorating, Saleh Sany's father told his son to escape the country. "I just left, but I didn't know where I was going," he explains in a quiet voice. He finally arrived in England, with a mobile phone and his life's possessions in a small backpack, and went straight to the police station. "I was shocked, scared and confused," he remembers. "But when I got to the police, they were so kind. There are no words to thank them and this country enough."

Another Cooked with Love participant, Mahmood Idris Abdulrahman, arrived in the UK at the age of 17, after a journey that took him from his home in Sudan through Chad, Libya, Malta, Italy and France. He left his family in Sudan after being targeted to join the militia by Janjaweed, the Sudanese Arab militia group which forcibly recruits young boys from refugee camps across the region. Abdulrahman may have escaped,

but he worries about his two young brothers who remain in the camp. "When I get strong and have money, I want to bring them here," he says, looking down and speaking softly. "One is 15 and one is 12 and I care about them a lot."

For Akbari, now 19, when the Taliban took over in Afghanistan in August 2021, it quickly became clear that female footballers would not be safe. She initially travelled from Herat to Kabul, then escaped to Pakistan with other teammates. "Before the Taliban, it was good for girls and I was improving my football," she says with conviction. "But when the Taliban came, it broke my heart." After spending two months in Pakistan, the football team were evacuated to the UK on an airplane funded by Kim Kardashian. Akbari is charming, funny and quick to laugh but her anger and grief remain. "For now, I've stopped playing football because I have a bad feeling for my

country, for my family and for all the girls left there," she says.

When unaccompanied asylum seekers arrive in the UK they are assigned a social worker and legal representative. "They have to produce a statement detailing the difficulties that caused them to leave their homes," explains Sidibe. "Then they're interviewed and they wait for a decision to determine their status." Besides helping them make their application for refugee status, however, Sidibe and her colleagues advocate, support and nurture the young people in their care. Without exception, every Cooked with Love participant spoke about Sidibe with deep affection. "She's not just my social worker," insisted Akbari, "she's like a mum."

In large part, the Cooked with Love project is the result of Sidibe and her colleagues' commitment to the young people in their care. "Food is such a great way

to bring people together and it celebrates what's wonderful about different cultures," she says when describing what initially inspired the project. "It turned out - and we didn't expect this - that it's been a piece of important life-story work, too. Cooking can mediate a conversation because it diverts focus. If someone is talking about trauma while chopping an onion we can put the tears down to the onion and it helps them open up."

The outcome of 16 in-person workshops and seven online sessions between March 2021 and July 2022, Cooked with Love was as a partnership between the British Library, Leeds Children and Families Social Work Service and Child Friendly Leeds. Over the course of a year, groups of young people from different countries met at Herd Farm Activity Centre, among the hills on the outskirts of Leeds, to remember, recreate, photograph and eat their favourite recipes from home.



Akbari's
chicken
korma



Khalil Hamid
Issa, above,
prepares fried
plantain, below



The resulting recipe book is organised by country with 110 pages of colourful photographs of food and the project participants cooking, eating, laughing and goofing about. “It’s like a window into the young people’s worlds,” reflects Sidibe. “Not just the trauma they’ve been through, their positive memories and the things they love and miss about home too.”

The Cooked with Love book makes for a joyous read and is packed full of clear, tantalising recipes, but it is also deeply moving. Each chapter starts with brief testimonials from all the young people involved, small snapshots of what they have left

behind and the longing they must endure. Millen Asmerom, an 18-year-old Eritrean girl, decided to cook *dinch wot*, a potato stew made with 12 onions. “What is special about our culture is that we sit and eat together,” she explains in her short biography. “Growing up, I remember that we would always cook outside, and there would usually be two or three people cooking and helping each other.”

Nineteen-year-old Mina Eshani came to the UK from Iran two years ago, but her continuing sense of loss is palpable: “I really miss my hometown. I miss my school friend Zahra. I miss the sunny weather, the parties, Eid celebrations, weddings

and festivals. The thing I miss the most is my mum’s delicious food.” A few pages along, Eshani has written out her recipe for potato and spinach flatbreads served with a cucumber, garlic and yoghurt sauce. Making the flatbread, “can be a little tricky, but it is worth it,” she assures the reader.

For her contribution, Akbari chose to make chicken korma, a dish she associates with her mum and sister, who remain in Herat. “I wanted to show people how delicious Afghan food is,” she explains with a broad smile. “If people know about the food, it might change their mind about my country.”

Nineteen-year-old Khalil Hamid Issa, who left Chad at the age of 13, has similar hopes for the cookery book. “People here ask me where Chad is and they have no idea,” he says. “They don’t know there are mountains and forests and beautiful places there.” Perhaps, he hopes, people will read his recipes for fried plantain and *karkadji* (nutty spinach and lamb stew) and be encouraged to find out more.

“The project is about the young people’s food and culture, of course,” explains Thahmina Begum, the artist and trainee art psychotherapist who coordinated the groups’ cooking sessions. “But it’s also about being part of a team and a feeling of belonging.” Begum’s own background as a second-generation Bangladeshi Muslim woman is, she believes, significant. “With all the groups, they were fascinated with me having a broad Yorkshire accent and wearing a hijab,” she says, laughing. “I’d tell them about my parents coming in the 50s and me being an artist. It was important they saw that I am part of this country.”

Belonging, of course, works in many ways. The project’s official evaluation document states that an aim of Cooked with Love was to foster the young people’s “cultural and civic participation”. Besides spending days together cooking and eating, the different country cohorts took trips to visit Leeds City Museum or the British Library in London. At the British Library, young Eritrean women were shown around by a curator who told them the library belonged to everyone. According to Sidibe, the girls thought this was hugely amusing and spent the rest of the day saying: “Do you know I own a library in London?” The British Library’s Cooked with Love partner, Elvie Thompson, felt the trips to the libraries and museums were an important part of the project. “I want every young person to feel that they could not only visit,” she says. “I want them to imagine that one day they might write the books there, that they could be part of it.”

For Carl Pollard, a carer who, with his partner, Sharon Pearson, has looked after unaccompanied minor asylum seekers in Leeds for five years, food is a vital tool for connection and communication. “Smell and taste go right to the soul of people,” he says. “When you don’t speak the language, it’s the



Winta
Habtestion
makes
hilbet

one thing you can share.” Three of the young people involved with Cooked with Love have lived with Pollard and Pearson. According to Pollard, the ceremony happening at Civic Hall is vital. “It’s a key building, at the centre of our city,” he states with conviction. “It’s not the corner shop, it’s where important things happen and that includes these young people talking about their recipes.”

Pearson hopes that the Cooked with Love project will help people understand why refugees come to the UK. “There’s a lot of bad press about migrants coming to this country,” she says. “But for a young person to run from their country and their mum and dad at 12 or 13 is horrific.” The refugees who stay with Pearson and Pollard become part of the family and keep in touch even after they have moved into independent accommodation. “The young people we see do a huge amount of hard work to get to a place where they can contribute to the UK,” says Pollard. “We’ve seen this happen over and over.”

The refugees involved with Cooked with Love all have clear plans for the future. Akbari hopes to join the army or police or to become a politician. Abdulrahman wants to study business at university and Hamid Issa, who loves movies, would like to be an actor or director. For Saleh Sany, who wants to work in IT or become an engineer, the idea of imagining a future is still strange. “To be honest, this question still shocks me,” he says. “When I was in Chad and Sudan,

If people know about the food, it might change their mind about my country

I didn’t have any dreams because there is no future, but when I got here I started dreaming.” Saleh Sany’s father, the person who encouraged him to escape Chad, died a few years ago. “I know my dad would be happy I’m here,” he says, wiping his eyes. “He would want this future for me.”

Across the groups involved with Cooking with Love, cooking knowledge varied. The young Eritrean women wielded knives and chopped whole sacks of onions like professional chefs. On discovering that Herd Farm had no pressure cooker, Akbari, who learned to cook from her mum, made a stiff dough out of flour and water, moulded a thick crust around a pan and its lid and created a homemade version without batting an eye. Short of skewers for his *mutasha* (barbecued lamb and fish), Youssef Mohamed, who comes from Chad, procured sticks from a nearby tree.

For some, however, the Cooked with Love project was a chance to learn new food skills. Saleh Sany’s experience of cooking, for instance, was limited to the food he made while waiting in France to hitch a ride on a lorry bound for the UK. “It was very simple, just enough for energy, nothing else,” he says. As a result, when he arrived in Leeds he could not cook. “This project was so great,” he says with a beaming smile. “Before I didn’t have any knowledge about making Sudanese food, but the other boys taught me and so now I know what to cook and how to shop.”

Beyond providing an opportunity for skill-sharing among the Cooked with Love participants, Sidibe thinks the recipe book will help separated children in the future too. “We are seeing a lot more young people come to Leeds through the National Transfer System in Kent,” she explains. “They may well not know how to cook or they may have been travelling so long they might have forgotten.” Moreover, Sidibe reflects, new arrivals often know nothing about Leeds; the Cooked with Love recipe book will reassure them that the city is welcoming and diverse.

Reflecting on the daylong sessions at Herd Farm, Begum remembers music blasting, raucous laughter and lots of chatting. “These children share being asylum seekers,” she says, “but they are just like any other teenagers and they love to talk about football, music, makeup and clothes.” The Cooked with Love project uses the shared language of food to celebrate and recognise a group of ordinary teenagers, who also happen to be completely extraordinary. As Sidibe says in the introduction to the project’s recipe book: “How lucky we are to now have them living in Leeds.” *The Cooked with Love recipe book will be given away at the Leeds Civic Hall celebration and a pdf can be downloaded for free from the project website at bl.uk/projects/food-means-home*

'I didn't write this book to make myself look good'

Jackass's Steve-O has survived sharks, gunshots and addiction. Now he has written a self-help book - and, he tells **Tim Jonze**, is preparing his strangest stunts yet

Steve-O from Jackass has written a self-help book, so let's start with the most obvious question: who on earth is going to take life advice from a man who has repeatedly stapled his scrotum to his thigh? "Oh, for sure," he replies in his unmistakably gravelly voice. "The idea of a book of wisdom from me is a patently absurd concept." Steve-O

is speaking over Zoom from his tour bus in Canada, where he's on the road with his Bucket List comedy show. He weighs up my question again. "The way I describe the book is that it's 90% insane stories about my fucked-up life and maybe 10% nuggets of wisdom gleaned from having made so many terrible decisions. That 10% might not help you at all, but you're gonna have an entertaining journey."

A Hard Kick in the Nuts is not Steve-O's first book. The 48-year-old's 2011 memoir, *Professional Idiot*, documented his rise from desperate attention-seeking kid to, um, desperate attention-seeking adult who became the breakout star of Jackass, the infamous early 00s MTV show in which a bunch of dudes would perform outlandish DIY stunts. Steve-O snorted wasabi, lit fireworks from his bottom and nearly got eaten alive by dunking himself into the ocean as shark bait (complete with a hook pierced through his chin). He was puppyish and lovable, but back then he was also a complete mess, an unreliable alcoholic who was so strung out on cocaine that he was once able to scoop a lump of congealed snot and coke from his nostril and smoke it in a homemade pipe ("I called it 'crack boogers'," he notes).

In the decade since that book, Steve-O has gone through a lot: he has kicked drugs and drink with the 12-step programme and overcome the many addictions that have sprung up in its place - sugar, sex,

spending (he calls it "addiction whack-a-mole"). He has also built an impressive career that incorporates his Wild Ride! podcast, a YouTube channel with more than 6m subscribers and a standup comedy career built on retelling his craziest real-life stories. (Sample line: "If your cover-up tattoo is a man fucking an ostrich, that's when you know you started off with something pretty rotten.")

During all of this, Steve-O has found love, settled down in LA and become incredibly serious and boring - as proved by the recent Jackass Forever movie, in which he smeared his penis and testicles in honey and released a hive of bees on to them. Or the YouTube clip where his friend fired a cannon of dog poo into his face at such

If you have this overdeveloped need for attention, the idea of people no longer looking at you is scary

close range that it perforated his eardrum. Or his plans to ... OK, so maybe he's not got *that* boring.

"I used to be a drunk attention whore," he says, "and now I'm a sober attention whore. That's kind of my deal."

Indeed, while A Hard Kick in the Nuts might sound like a ridiculous premise, it actually contains a startling amount of soul-searching - and jaw-dropping honesty: Steve-O recounts the numerous women he love-bombed and then ghosted; he examines the endless grief he has given his former friends and neighbours with reckless and selfish behaviour; he even admits to campaigning behind the scenes to get his late Jackass co-star, Ryan Dunn, kicked off a show they were co-presenting because he thought he was a big enough star to do it alone. Steve-O's need to confess seems to be as compulsive as any of his addictions.

"I remember recording the audiobook," he says, "and as I started reading out loud what I'd put down on the page, I had this strong feeling, like, 'Oh my God, why am I putting this out there?' At times I couldn't believe what I was reading. But the stories are 100% true. And there's something really powerful about including ugly truths, which are just so deeply unflattering. It becomes quite clear early on that I'm not writing the book to make myself look good."

And yet ... it's hard not to come out of the book liking Steve-O, even though you've just read 200-plus pages of him doing largely terrible things. The book is full of what his friend, Jackass co-creator Johnny Knoxville, described as "so much growth". The self-help angle might seem flimsy, but the overall message of examining your mistakes, understanding your faults and trying to become a better person is admirable.

That doesn't mean it's not also entertainingly weird. A case in point: when Steve-O sought help for his sex addiction, a therapist suggested he try a month or two of celibacy to rewire his brain. Steve-O's insistence on taking everything too far meant he ended up going 431 days without sex or even ejaculating. He was so determined to abstain that, he says, he would somehow wake himself from sexual

dreams. "It was a crazy thing, and I don't think it was particularly helpful or healthy," he says. How did it affect his daily behaviour?

"Oh God. I was on a standup comedy tour for the majority of that time and as part of my routine I would announce, each night, how many days it had been since Elvis had left the building. And that tour was - well, a fucking disaster is what it was. If people were chatting in the audience or anyone was recording the show on their phone, I just flew off the handle. My capacity for losing my temper was impressive. *Really* impressive."

Steve-O is a seasoned standup these days and always gets a laugh for his opening line: "I'm in a terrible situation ... I'm Steve-O in my 40s." This fear of ageing has been a constant as long as he can remember.

Born Stephen Gilchrist Glover in Wimbledon, south London, Steve-O's childhood was spent on the move thanks to his father's work as a corporate executive. He lived in Brazil, Connecticut, Florida and Toronto among other places. He always assumed he'd die young so spent his time filming himself doing crazy stunts - the best way to leave a legacy, he reasoned. An early school report famously said: "Socially, Steve's attempt to impress his peers frequently has had the opposite effect." Yet he found his calling when he was accepted onto Jackass, the brainchild of Knoxville, film-maker Spike Jonze and then-skateboard magazine editor Jeff Tremaine.

More recently, though, Steve-O has found himself facing what he calls "a midlife crisis on steroids". The man who built a career on firing hard objects into his balls now invokes eastern spirituality and Buddhist philosophy in order to wrestle with western society's approach to ageing and why it disturbs him so much.

"We shove old people in nursing homes because we don't want to think about our own mortality," he says. "When you get old, people don't want to see you. So if, like me, you have this overdeveloped need for attention - and that's putting it mildly - then the idea of people no longer looking at you is scary."

The cliché of the washed-up clown performing old tricks to



Steve-O in Jackass, and with co-star Johnny Knoxville (left)





There was nothing bigoted or misogynistic about Jackass. I consider it rather wholesome



a dwindling audience gives him nightmares. But film-maker and comedian Kevin Smith, a recent guest on his podcast, told him he could envisage Steve-O as a modern-day George Carlin, the countercultural comedian who remained popular, edgy and cool into old age. “And God, I’ve been hanging on to that ever since!” he laughs.

One plan for longevity rests on what he refers to as his Gone Too Far tour, a future standup show that he hopes will continue his unique combination of comedy and filmed stunts, only this time “raising the bar for crazy”. This will involve having breast augmentation surgery and inking a tattoo of a penis on his forehead, although one plan he mentions in the book – shooting a bullet through both of his cheeks – is no longer happening. “I’ve taken that off the table,” he says, a little embarrassed. “I’m not known for saying I will do something and then backing out ... but I’ve lost my sense of humour for guns. I no longer find it fun or funny to seek to shoot myself.”

Fair enough. But what about the breasts? I mean, why that specifically?

“The theme that ties together all of these ridiculous acts is an examination of my body and how, on the cusp of turning 50, the instrument I rely on for attention is breaking down,” he says. “As we barrel towards our inevitable demise, we wilt, and our bodies deteriorate, and it’s this really sad dark thing. And that process is well under way for me.”

And so he’s fighting this existential dread with a boob-job?

“That came from me being legitimately horrified to look in the mirror and discover that not only am I developing man tits but I literally have underboob too. And so I’m childishly lashing out at the God that enabled me to develop man titties. Like, if I’m going to be forced to have titties then goddamn it they’re going to be DDs!” He laughs his dirtbag laugh and then says, referring to the 19th-century American showman: “I think the PT Barnum in me just thinks that makes sense. It will be the tour that promotes itself.”

The penis tattoo follows a similar line of thinking: “I feel compelled to draw attention away from the increasing wrinkling going on around my eyes. Clearly, a big dick on my forehead is all anybody’s going to be able to see, so it’ll keep me young.” What could be more rational?

Since 2017, Steve-O has been in perhaps his first functional relationship, with Lux Wright, a 35-year-old production designer. They plan to marry and open an animal sanctuary (kids are off the agenda ever since Steve-O filmed himself having a vasectomy and then inviting local teenagers to beat his balls like a piñata immediately afterwards). I wonder what Wright makes of his Gone Too Far plans?

“She really hates the boobs thing,” he says. “But she’s come



Steve-O on stage in Toronto

around a little bit. I consulted with arguably the world’s most famous plastic surgeon and he said that he thinks after a period of three months it will be easy to put back together. The penis on my forehead will ultimately be lasered off, too. So I will be restored to usual.”

Steve-O describes Wright as “exceedingly normal”, which is an interesting choice of words for someone who was happy to film their partner taking a dump in their living room on top of a whirring fan and get sprayed with faeces as a result. (The resulting footage is shown as part of Steve-O’s Bucket List tour.) That’s how he knew she was the woman for him?

“Yeah,” he laughs. “There’s certain things she’s perfectly fine with which you would think she wouldn’t be. Then there’s the life-threatening stuff that, understandably, she really hates.”

Steve-O might be in no mood to settle down. But there is plenty in his book to suggest that Knoxville is right: there has been so much growth. For instance, Steve-O now looks back at Jackass and accurately pinpoints its true charm: “It was devoid of any mean spirit. There was nothing bigoted or misogynistic. I consider it rather wholesome.” He also risks alienating some of his fanbase by discussing his vote for Joe Biden: “I would sooner have less in my bank account and live in a world that is safer and more dignified for all of its inhabitants.”

There’s an unexpectedly sweet ending to the interview when I wish him well with his book. “Thank you, man,” he says. “It’s a big deal to ask someone to read a book. It’s a *humongous* thing, especially in this day and age. It’s a tall order. So for you to have done that? I just want you to know what a tremendous gift that is to me, for you to have devoted that much attention to my book. I can’t thank you enough, I’m over the moon and I just want you to know how grateful I am.”

I think he really means it, too. Which, coming from someone who once tightrope-walked over an alligator pit with raw meat stuffed into his underwear, means a lot. *A Hard Kick in the Nuts: What I’ve Learned from a Lifetime of Terrible Decisions* will be published on 27 September.

'I've been drawing these for 18 hours a day' ... Devlin's sketches for *Come Home Again*



Animal magic

She's created spectacular sets for Beyoncé and Adele, but now Es Devlin has made a shrine to pipistrelle bats and bearded tits. **Oliver Wainwright** meets the multihyphenate designer

Did you know," asks Es Devlin, "that you can tell the difference between a wood pigeon and a collared dove from how it emphasises the syllables in its call?" She is sitting at a long table in her home and studio in London as the cooing of a wood pigeon drifts in on the breeze. A nearby table is piled high with pencil drawings of birds, beetles, butterflies and bats, while further illustrations of animals are propped against the walls. It looks like the result of a particularly busy day in an RSPB classroom rather than the lair of a world-famous stage designer. "I've been drawing these nonstop for four months," she says, with an air of exhaustion. "Sometimes for 18 hours a day."

When the pandemic hit, Devlin's mind turned to the wildlife in her own back yard. She had been working on elaborate stage designs for Beyoncé, Adele and Cirque du Soleil, but suddenly found her world compressed to counting caterpillars and spotting bee hawk moths with her two children.

"Do you know about the streaked bombardier beetle?" she asks excitedly. "They thought it was extinct, but then 85 of them were found in Tower Hamlets." The result of this frenzied bout of drawing, and the reason for our meeting, is one of Devlin's most prominent and personal projects yet. Outside Tate Modern on the banks of the Thames, she will soon unveil an installation designed to call attention to London's endangered species, a gleaming shrine to soprano pipistrelles, tall fescue planthoppers and bearded tits.

Her sketches of these, and a host of other fish, frogs and fungi, have been enlarged, printed on plywood, and fixed to an illuminated steel and fabric dome, inside which

choirs from London's diaspora communities will perform at sunset for four nights. Her renderings give it the look of an animal-themed wedding chapel, the singers surrounded by a frilly veil of her drawings of the 243 species on the capital's priority list. During the day, visitors will be able to hear recordings of the creatures' calls, along with intriguing facts read out by Devlin. Did you know that the swift travels the equivalent distance to the moon and back eight times in its life?

"I wanted to get people engaged with these animals emotionally," she says. "I was inspired by the tradition of evensong - to try

For Cop26, I thought, 'Wouldn't it be interesting if the protagonists in that room were not humans, but trees?'

to achieve that same level of synaesthetic power, with light, music, texts and architecture, in celebration of Londoners who aren't human. I'm hoping that people who don't like moths will think again, or people who eat animals might change their minds."

Commissioned by luxury jewellery house Cartier, the project marks Devlin's latest foray into the world of brand-sponsored immersive art. She is now represented by Pace gallery, with a permanent installation in Miami and a bendy bamboo history of the world show at London's Pitzhanger Manor under her belt. So is she staking a claim as an artist? "I think 'multihyphenate' is the safest way to put it," she says, citing the late designer Virgil Abloh's varied oeuvre as an inspiration. "It might be contemporary art, it might be a sneaker design, it might be, you know, a project for social change. But I think where all my work converges is around shifting people's perspectives."

Over the last two decades, Devlin has risen to become the most sought-after production designer in the business, revered for conjuring beguiling theatre sets and high-octane stadium shows - this year she designed a replica of Compton for Dr Dre's half-time show at the Super Bowl. As her Tate installation opens, it is also possible to see her sets for Don Giovanni and Salome at the Royal Opera House, along with



High octane ... her Super Bowl stage design for Dr Dre, Snoop Dogg and Eminem



Immersive ...
Devlin's
installation
outside Tate
Modern

a new production of *The Crucible* at the National Theatre, not to mention two tours for the Weeknd and Florence + the Machine.

In recent years, however, Devlin has been pursuing work that isn't based on someone else's text or the whims of a pop superstar - two-thirds of her studio output is now her own self-initiated art projects. The shift began in 2016, when she created a mirrored maze in a warehouse in Peckham, in partnership with Chanel, after which a series of commissions for immersive Instagram-friendly brand experiences followed. She built a warped oval model of Manhattan that rotated over a pool of water to promote a New York apartment complex by Bjarke Ingels. Then came a zoetrope-like pavilion in Cape Town for Mercedes-Benz. For the 2018 London design festival she installed a bright red lion in Trafalgar Square that spouted AI-generated poetry, a theme she further explored at the UK pavilion at the 2021 Dubai Expo.

A big pile of planks arranged like a cone on its side, the pavilion generated an AI poem every 90 seconds, using words contributed by visitors that appeared at the end of each piece of wood. Examples included such gnomonic lines as "Papa's shirt, and the grasshopper coming this way - but this is a weird day for thinking". It didn't receive the rave reviews Devlin was used to.

"I have never seen such a waste of public money," declared Stuart Rose, former boss of Marks & Spencer, after visiting the £44m project with business leaders. "A giant ice-cream cone spouting gobbledegook," is how someone else described it. Devlin is sanguine. "Some of it was profound," she says. "Some of it was nonsense. I thought it was a pretty good expression of our country."

More recently, her use of trees in temporary installations attracted accusations of greenwashing. Devlin trucked 400 saplings to the courtyard of Somerset House last year to promote the UN's sustainable development goals, and imported another forest to Glasgow to create a silvan backdrop for the New York Times Climate

Hub at Cop26 a few months later.

Devlin says her arboreal interest was triggered by reading *The Overstory* by Richard Powers, a multigenerational saga told from the perspective of trees, and she does not seem to have any regrets: "For Cop26, I thought, 'Wouldn't it be interesting if the protagonists in that room were not humans, but trees, and you had 197 of them, each bearing witness to what 197 countries might do? It is neuroscientifically proven that you have better conversations among trees - the Japanese even prescribe 'forest bathing' - and I think the climate discussions bore that out."

Her conversation is sprinkled with such environmental nuggets, gleaned from popular science and philosophy books, which often provide the starting point for her work. She cites James Gleick, author of *Chaos*, and the CIA systems theorist turned Buddhist scholar, Joanna Macy. Her Miami installation takes the form of another mirrored maze, this time inspired by "the symmetry between the systems in your lungs, which bifurcate with exactly the same frequency as trees". The theme recurred in a collaboration with Pangaia, for a clothing line launched as a "reminder to take action now" on climate change, each garment printed with a quote from Devlin: "A forest of us, a symbiotic symmetry, a branching geometry that flows within us and around us but do you see it, can you feel it, do you breathe it can you find it - go and find it."

Such environmental platitudes can sometimes feel at odds with the resource-intensive reality of her work. For a recent fashion show for Yves Saint Laurent in the Moroccan desert, Devlin dug a big circular pond and bathed the surrounding sand dunes in clouds of artificial mist - just as Morocco was suffering its worst drought in 40 years (YSL says that non-drinking water was used in the pond, and it was recycled for irrigation). Also, as a producer of touring rock concerts, her hefty sets are regularly trucked across continents and flown around the planet, emitting countless tonnes of CO₂.

"It's the most important bit of work we still have to do," she says. "We need to think more about modular systems, about each venue having its own kit of parts, rather than starting from scratch each time." Aware of her own carbon footprint, Devlin has embarked on a programme of offsetting, contributing to a reforestation project in Brazil and building a school classroom in Malawi.

The designer, about to turn 51, is taking stock. "I'm halfway through my life and I've learned a lot," she says. "But, in the rest of the days that I've got, I want to make work that is really worth the resources put into it. Has everything I've ever made been worth the resources? Probably not."

Come Home Again is at the Tate Modern garden from 21 September until 1 October. Choral evensong is at sunsets from 22-25 September.

How we made

Eurotrash

'There was a strong sex obsession. We'd look at all these strange kinks. These days you have to be cautious, but back then there were no limits'



'Ello my British chums! ...
De Caunes and
Gaultier with Lolo
Ferrari in 1995;
below, as Charles
and Diana

Antoine de Caunes Presenter

In the late 80s, I was presenting a French music show called *Rapido* and Janet Street-Porter [then BBC2's head of youth and entertainment] happened to see it. She said, "I want that on the BBC", which was already kind of weird. A French guy to host a UK rock show, are you kidding? It was like asking a British chef to host a French cuisine programme. When *Rapido* came to an end after a few seasons, producer Peter Stuart and I were asked to pitch a weekly magazine show. Peter came up with *Eurotrash*, which was an attempt to reconcile Brits with the rest of Europe. We failed in that mission, I noticed!

I had been friends with Jean Paul Gaultier for years, so asked him to co-host. We had a flirtatious relationship on screen. That's why I asked him to wear a kilt - to show off his big hairy legs and stay sexy. My English isn't perfect but his was incredibly haphazard. He would read the autocue very carefully but we still had to do many takes. The show took ages to film because we were laughing so much. Imagine trying to keep a straight face when there's a naked guy behind you, doing the helicopter with his dick. Or German cleaners in G-strings vacuuming the studio. Carla Bruni came to sit on my lap and answer silly questions. We were like a family of freaks, reuniting every week to make this bizarre nonsense show.

Viewers enjoyed the way I pronounced certain phrases, especially "butt cheeks" and "dickhead". There was a strong sex obsession. We'd look at all these strange kinks and subcultures. Sometimes it could be frightening, but by spending time with these people, you could tell their stories better. We tried not to make fun of them but make fun with them. We broadcast at 10.30pm, which was perfect because by that time, everyone in Britain is drunk and feeling much looser. Between 2 and 3 million people watched. Usually for that slot, it was under a million.

These days you have to be so cautious but back then there were no limits. There were lots of complaints but we loved being

outrageous. It was a window on the crazy world, which today you can access with a click. When I meet Brits aged between 30 and 50, they tell me, "We weren't allowed to watch *Eurotrash*, we had to hide behind the sofa while our parents were watching." It traumatised a whole generation.

The idea was to show you repressed Brits that there was some lightness, craziness and freedom on this cold, dark continent called Europe. You didn't believe us, clearly.

Maria McErlane Narrator

I sent in a voice tape, then got called in to meet the producers. They showed me clips of people in various stages of undress and mental disarray. We discussed whether the narration should be straight or tongue-in-cheek. Obviously, I thought the latter. *Eurotrash* was a way of getting risqué material on air with a cheeky postcard giggle. It was meant to titillate in a way that could still be on terrestrial TV. We all thought it would be cancelled within seconds. I can't believe we got away with it so long - 16 series and endless specials. It was a guilty pleasure. My agent at the time said, "We won't put this on your CV, darling."

The tone of the narration has been much copied but imitation is the best form of flattery. The words "German" and "poo" haunt me still because there was an awful lot of that. When I did my vocal warm-ups, it'd be, "Welcome to *Eurotrash*. Tonight we've got some Germans pooing, massive tits and a few penises." It was all linked by Antoine and Jean Paul, who had this rather camp relationship. Antoine was mercurial. He did a political programme in Paris and was very serious. He'd be reading Proust backstage but as soon as the camera light came on, he'd turn into a comedy Frenchman: "'Ello my British chums!"

The internet was in its infancy in 1993. We showed every orifice but it's tame compared to porn sites that are now a click away. *Interviews by Michael Hogan. Eurotrash is released on 26 September on DVD and digital from Network, pre-order at eurotrash.tv*



Trouble's brewing in the little town of Ólafsvík

Review Sisterhood, Channel 4

Grim secrets come to the surface in slow-burning Icelandic thriller

★★★★☆

Rebecca Nicholson



The foreign language platform Walter Presents has bagged its first Icelandic drama with the sombre, grey-washed *Sisterhood*. Despite Iceland having one of the lowest crime rates in the world – last October, the prison population of the country stood at 150 people – it seems that it is still more than capable of hosting a bleak drama about grim crimes. Murders may be scarce, but why should that stop its detectives getting their teeth stuck into one?

Cleverly, *Sisterhood* makes a feature of it. When human bones are discovered at a new quarry (“They were digging under the lava,” says the local sheriff, in a line you definitely wouldn’t hear in the latest ITV gruff detective series), investigator Einar’s first assumption is that they must be ancient. His colleague Vera points out that one of the teeth has a filling, so they might need to move away from the history books. So few people go missing in Iceland that Vera is able to name each unsolved disappearance, since 1982.

Most of these cases are not considered to be suspicious. They are written off as simply being tourists who had given up on life and wanted to disappear. (Perhaps they got stuck with a transfer at Keflavik airport, with only a juice bar for sustenance.) But there wouldn’t be much of a series in that, and surely it won’t be long before Vera and Einar, who already have the makings of a classic double act, connect the bones to a local girl from a tough family who vanished more than 20 years ago. The local

police are dismissive of the idea that the two may be connected. The girl’s file is slim, and the case was closed quickly. The officers involved seem a little too eager to keep them from reopening it.

This series doesn’t waste time on trying to wrongfoot its viewers. It isn’t a whodunnit, as such, and in its early stages it doesn’t seem to be that interested in what led to the crime, which is hinted at in flashbacks that bookend the first episode. I am sure that will come. Instead this is more concerned with what is happening in the community. Everyone knows everyone in Ólafsvík, a small fishing town on the west coast of Iceland, but not everyone knows who is hiding an enormous, potentially life-destroying secret.

It spends 20 minutes or so slowly moving its pieces into position, as we get to know the pillars of the community. Karlotta is an amiable nurse whose personal demons are lurking in the background. She does yoga, runs and listens to anti-anxiety podcasts in order to get through her days. Anna Sigga is a chef for a fancy restaurant, where she is browbeaten by a boorish boss who works her so hard that she spends what little time off she has in agony. (The boss is a spectacular monster, who will be familiar to almost anyone who has worked in pubs, restaurants or any other catering establishment.) And Elisabet is the local priest and a relatively new mother, who is preparing the young people of their town for their confirmations.

It might be down to the fact that I’ve spent the last few days catching up on *The Capture*, which is as frantically paced as it gets – I manage a few hectic minutes of an episode before I need a tea break and a lie-down – but I was charmed by *Sisterhood*’s steady, ominous pace. It refuses to thwack you over the head with high-octane drama, instead opting for a no-frills, fuss-free approach to setting up the avalanche of secrets that you just know is about to come.

There is a grey gloom that hangs over everything, a flat drizzle that seems to defy the drama of the natural landscape. This is staid and practical stuff. By the time it places Karlotta, Anna Sigga and Elisabet in the spotlight, and we get to see how these seemingly disparate women are connected, it starts to show its hand. It promises to be a thriller that turns the screws on a past that has been kept hidden for far longer than most people’s consciences could bear. The trio form the sisterhood of the title, and it is a fragile one: I’m not expert in covering up crimes, but even I know that “Is she stable?” is not a question I’d want to regularly ask of one of my co-conspirators.

If *Sisterhood* fulfils its early promise, it could be an *Unforgotten*-esque look at what the pressure of a long-term, deep-rooted lie can do to a person’s state of mind, and what happens when the inevitable cracks in the story begin to form and spread. These three women have some choices to make. I’ll stick around to find out what they do.

Crossfire 9pm, BBC One



Welcome to paradise ... well, that’s the sales pitch for the resort holiday that Jo (played by Keeley Hawes) has booked with her toxic husband and a swimming pool overcrowded with loud kids in this new three-part thriller. But trouble arrives when gunshots are fired in the pool area and guests start running for their lives. Created and written by Louise Doughty (author of *Apple Tree Yard*), this tense thriller is propulsive from the off, with plenty of peek-through-your-fingers moments.

Hollie Richardson

The Great British Bake Off 8pm, Channel 4

Still the best amateur makers’ elimination contest, *Bake Off* remains a bright light in a storm. Now it’s time to lose ourselves in illusion macarons and fruity crunches, because it’s biscuit week. The showstopper, a mask made of biscuits, is the moment when potential series winners start to emerge. **Jack Seale**

Storyville: One Day in Ukraine 9pm, BBC Four

Immediately haunting, this documentary opens with the camera rolling as the person holding it makes their way down the escalators of a seemingly empty metro station. At the bottom, we find the people of Ukraine sheltering for their lives. What follows is 24 hours of footage from 14 March 2022 to chart a snapshot of life after invasion. **HR**

Irma Vep 9pm, Sky Atlantic

With the shoot for *Les Vampires* wrapping up, Mira (Alicia Vikander) channels the spirit of her eponymous lead, while

her agent secures her a role in London with a film-maker she admires. Regina is also going up in the world to become a director. But René seems unable to move on for now, in the series finale. **Ali Catterall**

Cunk on Earth 10pm, BBC Two

Diane Morgan is back as Philomena Cunk in this very funny mockumentary, asking the really big questions about our planet and civilisation, such as: “Was the invention of writing a significant development? Or more of a flash in the pan like rap metal?” **HR**

The Suspect 9pm, ITV

Although Joe (Aidan Turner) has tried to rely on the old “it’s just a coincidence” excuse throughout the murder investigation, the pressure’s on and he’s forced to flee to his dad’s house. DI Ruiz and DS Devi think they’ve finally found their suspect, but will Joe take one last chance to uncover the truth in this penultimate episode? **Hannah Verdier**

And another thing

Farewell to Flatbush Misdemeanours, cancelled after two seasons, which feels oddly fitting for a series with such a laid-back vibe



BBC One

6.0 **Breakfast** (T) **9.15** Morning Live (T) **10.0** Northern Justice (T) **10.30** For Love Or Money (T) (R) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (T) **12.15** Bargain Hunt (T) (R) **1.0** News (T) **1.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **1.45** Doctors (T) **2.15** Money for Nothing (T) (R) **3.0** Escape to the Country (T) **3.45** Antiques Road Trip (T) **4.30** The Tournament (T) **5.15** Pointless (T) **6.0** News (T) **6.30** Regional News and Weather (T) **7.0** The One Show (T) **7.30** EastEnders (T)

8.0 **Celebrity MasterChef** (T) The final four produce a fantastical theatrical showstopping dish. **9.0** **Crossfire** (T) New series. Jo Cross's world is shattered when gunmen attack the Spanish hotel where she's holidaying with her family and friends. Drama, with Keeley Hawes.

10.0 **News** (T) **10.30** **Regional News** (T) Weather **10.40** **Mental Health: Young Lives in Crisis** (T) Panorama special revealing the challenges faced daily by mental health clinicians as demand for services reaches unprecedented levels. **11.40** **Weather for the Week Ahead** (T) **11.45** **News** (T)

BBC Two

6.30 **Coast** (T) (R) **7.0** Homes Under the Hammer (T) (R) **8.0** Mary Berry: Cook & Share (T) (R) **8.30** Nadiya's Everyday Baking (T) (R) **9.0** News (T) **1.0** Chase the Case (T) (R) **1.45** Eggheads (T) (R) **2.15** Glorious Gardens from Above (T) (R) **3.0** Flipping Profit (T) (R) **3.45** Home Is Where the Art Is (T) (R) **4.30** Murder, Mystery and My Family (T) (R) **5.15** Flog It! (T) (R) **6.0** Richard Osman's House of Games (T) **6.30** Unbeatable (T) **7.0** Villages By the Sea (T) (R) **7.30** Iolo: A Wild Life (T) (R)

8.0 **The Hotel People** (T) (R) The Grand Central is on high alert as a hotel inspector could arrive at any minute. **9.0** **The Boys from Brazil: Rise of the Bolsonaros** (T) A look at Jair Bolsonaro's time as president of Brazil, a period that has had a profound effect on the country and the world.

10.0 **Cunk on Earth** (T) New series. Spoof documentary. **10.30** **Newsnight** (T) Weather **11.15** **Sign Zone Fake Or Fortune?** (T) (R) Fiona Bruce and Philip Mould try to prove that a sketch of a mother and child is by Amedeo Modigliani. **12.15** **Celebrity MasterChef** (T) (R) **1.15** How to With John Wilson (T) (R) **1.45** This Is BBC Two

ITV

6.0 **Good Morning Britain** (T) **9.0** Lorraine (T) **10.0** This Morning (T) **12.30** Loose Women (T) **1.30** News and Weather (T) **1.55** Local News and Weather (T) **2.0** Dickinson's Real Deal (T) **3.0** Tenable (T) **4.0** Tipping Point (T) **5.0** The Chase (T) **6.0** Local News and Weather (T) **6.30** News and Weather (T) **7.30** Emmerdale (T)

8.0 **Coronation Street** (T) Kelly plots the ultimate revenge against Gary. Jenny feels uneasy when Leo voices suspicions of Stephen. **9.0** **The Suspect** (T) An old grudge rears its head and Joe flees to his dad's house for sanctuary with the police closing in, while Ruiz thinks he is missing something.

10.0 **News** (T) Weather **10.40** **Local News** (T) Weather **10.55** **Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?** (T) (R) General knowledge quiz. **11.55** **Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport** (T) (R) **12.25** **Shop: Ideal World** **3.0** Take the Tower (T) (R) **3.50** Unwind With ITV (T) **5.05** Dickinson's Real Deal (T) (R)

Channel 4

6.10 **Countdown** (T) (R) **6.50** 3rd Rock from the Sun (T) (R) **7.40** Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) **9.0** Frasier (T) (R) **10.30** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) **11.25** News (T) **11.30** The Great House Giveaway (T) (R) **12.30** Steph's Packed Lunch (T) **2.10** Countdown (T) **3.0** A Place in the Sun (T) (R) **4.0** Chateau DIY (T) **5.0** Moneybags (T) **6.0** The Simpsons (T) (R) **6.30** Hollyoaks (T) (R) **7.0** News (T)

8.0 **The Great British Bake Off** (T) Noel Fielding and Matt Lucas present biscuit week, which sees the bakers make illusion macarons, a fruity favourite and a 3D mask made entirely from biscuits. **9.30** **First Dates Hotel** (T) Chef Georgia is paired with Nick, and is impressed with his knowledge of local produce.

10.35 **Rosie Jones' Trip Hazard** (T) Fay Ripley joins the comic. **11.35** **The Simpsons** (T) (R) **12.05** **Gogglebox** (T) (R) **1.0** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice (R) **1.55** The Last Leg (R) **2.35** **FILM** Goat (2016) (T) **4.20** Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country (R) **5.15** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (R)

Channel 5

6.0 **Milkshake!** **9.15** Jeremy Vine (T) **12.45** Holiday Homes in the Sun (T) **1.40** News (T) **1.45** Home and Away (T) **2.15** **FILM** Saving Billy (Roxy Shih, 2021) (T) **4.0** Bargain Loving Brits By the Sea (T) (R) **5.0** News (T) **6.0** Cash in the Attic (T) **6.55** News (T) **7.0** Dogs Behaving (Very) Badly (T) (R) **7.55** News (T)

8.0 **The Yorkshire Vet** (T) Julian performs an emergency blood plasma transfusion on a baby alpaca. **9.0** **Michael Palin: Into Iraq** (T) New series. Michael embarks on an epic journey through Iraq, following the Tigris river for more than 1,000 miles from its source in eastern Turkey to the Persian Gulf.

10.0 **The World's Most Luxurious Prison** (T) (R) **11.05** **My Son the Serial Killer** (R) **12.05** **The Yorkshire Ripper: Born to Kill** (T) (R) **1.0** The Live Casino Show (T) **3.05** British Airways 24/7 (T) (R) **3.55** Building the Channel Tunnel (T) (R) **4.40** Now That's Funny! (T) (R) **5.30** Peppa Pig (T) (R) **5.35** Paw Patrol (T) (R)

BBC Four

7.0 **Great American Railroad Journeys** (T) (R) Michael Portillo meets scientists studying the northern lights as his Alaska trip continues.

8.0 **Keeping Up Appearances** (T) (R) Hyacinth tries to land a part in Emmet's play. **8.30** **Ever Decreasing Circles** (T) (R) Martin finds Paul has bought a neighbour's house and is planning to rent it out. **9.0** **Storyville: One Day in Ukraine** (T) A snapshot of one day in a country under siege, filmed on 14 March.

10.20 **Seamus Heaney and the Music of What Happens** (T) (R) Documentary about the life and work of the Irish poet Seamus Heaney. **11.50** **The Celts: Blood, Iron and Sacrifice With Alice Roberts and Neil Oliver** (T) (R) **12.50** **Great American Railroad Journeys** (T) (R) **1.50** The Search for a New Earth (T) (R)

Other channels

BBC Three

7.0pm Top Gear **7.58** The Catch-Up **8.0** **FILM** Divergent: Insurgent (2015) Fantasy sequel, starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort. **9.45** Lazy Susan **10.0** Canada's Drag Race **11.0** This Country **12.0** Top Gear **1.0** Top Gear **2.0** Hot Property **2.35** This Country **3.0** This Country **3.30** Cuckoo

Dave

6.0am Teleshopping **7.10** Yianni: Supercar Customiser **8.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **9.0** Storage Hunters UK **10.0** Sin City Motors **11.0** Expedition With Steve Backshall **12.0** Bangers and Cash **1.0** Border Force: America's Gatekeepers **2.0** Top Gear **3.0** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul **4.0** Top Gear **5.0** Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul **6.0** Taskmaster **7.0** Richard Osman's House of Games **7.40** Room 101 **8.20** Would I Lie to You? **9.0** Q! XL **10.0** Mel Giedroyc: Unforgivable **11.0** Q! XL **12.0** Mock the Week **12.40** Q! **1.20** Q! XL **2.25** Room 101 **2.55** Room 101 **3.25** Mock the Week **4.0** Teleshopping

E4

6.0am Hollyoaks **7.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **8.0** Black-ish **9.0** How I Met Your Mother **10.0** The Big Bang Theory **11.0** Young Sheldon **12.0** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **1.0** The Big Bang Theory **3.0** Young Sheldon **3.30** Young Sheldon **4.0** Married at First Sight UK **5.0** The Big Bang Theory **7.0** Hollyoaks **7.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.0** Below Deck: Mediterranean **9.0** Married at First Sight UK **10.0** Celeb Cooking School **11.05** Naked Attraction **12.05** First Dates Hotel **1.15** Married at First Sight UK **2.15** Celeb Cooking School **3.10** Below Deck **4.0** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA **4.45** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.10** Brooklyn Nine-Nine

Film4

11.0am **FILM** Destroyer (1943) Wartime adventure, starring Edward G Robinson. **1.05** **FILM** Red Mountain (1951) Western, starring Alan Ladd. **2.45** **FILM** The Last Blitzkrieg (1959) Second world war drama, starring Van Johnson. **4.30** **FILM** Tobruk (1967)

Second world war adventure, starring George Peppard and Rock Hudson. **6.40** **FILM** The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel (2015) Comedy-drama sequel, starring Dev Patel and Maggie Smith. **9.0** **FILM** Once Upon a Time in Hollywood (2019) Drama, starring Leonardo DiCaprio. **12.15** **FILM** Topsy-Turvy (1999) Period drama, starring Jim Broadbent.

ITV2

6.0am World's Funniest Videos **6.25** World's Funniest Videos **7.0** Love Bites **8.0** Secret Crush **9.0** Veronica Mars **10.0** One Tree Hill **11.0** Hart of Dixie **12.0** Supermarket Sweep **1.0** Family Fortunes **2.0** The Masked Singer US **3.05** Veronica Mars **4.0** One Tree Hill **5.0** Hart of Dixie **6.0** Celebrity Catchphrase **7.0** Secret Crush **8.0** Bob's Burgers **8.30** Bob's Burgers **9.0** Bad Chefs **10.0** Plebs **10.30** Plebs **11.0** Family Guy **11.30** Family Guy **12.0** American Dad! **12.30** American Dad! **12.55** Bob's Burgers **1.25** Bob's Burgers **1.50** Don't Hate the Playaz **2.35** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **3.0** Teleshopping

Sky Max

6.0am Stargate SG-1 **8.0** The Flash **9.0** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **10.0** Supergirl **11.0** NCIS: New Orleans **1.0** Hawaii Five-0 **2.0** MacGyver **3.0** DC's Legends of Tomorrow **4.0** The Flash **5.0** Supergirl **6.0** Stargate SG-1 **8.0** A League of Their Own **9.0** The Blacklist **10.0** Strike Back **11.0** Brassic **12.0** S.W.A.T **1.0** The Force: North East **2.0** Football's Funniest Moments **2.45** Road Wars **3.15** Hawaii Five-0 **4.10** MacGyver **5.0** Highway Patrol

Sky Arts

6.0am Reinventing the Orchestra With Charles Hazlewood **7.0** Hollywood in Vienna **9.0** Tales of the Unexpected **10.0** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **11.0** Discovering: James Coburn **12.0** Renoir: Revered and Reviled **1.0** Tales of the Unexpected **2.0** The Art of Architecture **3.0** Portrait Artist of the Year 2014 **3.55** Discovering: Dean Martin **4.50** Tales of the Unexpected **5.50** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **6.50** Chasing Lights: The Voyages of Matisse **8.0** Discovering: George Clooney **9.0** Discovering: Jodie Foster **10.0**

Catherine the Great **11.10** The South Bank Show **12.40** The Directors **1.40** Hendrix & Handel: Urban Myths **2.10** Orson Welles in Norwich: Urban Myths **2.40** Making Waves: The Art of Cinematic Sound **4.35** Inside Art: Van Gogh at the Courtauld Gallery **5.0** Tate Britain's Great Art Walks

Sky Atlantic

6.0am Fish Town **7.45** Boardwalk Empire **10.0** The Sopranos **12.15** Ray Donovan **2.25** Game of Thrones **3.30** Boardwalk Empire **5.45** The Sopranos **7.55** Game of Thrones **9.0** Irma Vep **10.05** House of the Dragon **11.15** Munich Games **12.15** Succession **1.20** In Treatment **1.50** **FILM** 11th Hour (2017) **2.0** **FILM** Nightingale (2015) **3.30** In Treatment



Radio

Radio 3

6.30am Breakfast **9.0** Essential Classics **12.0** Composer of the Week: Emilie Mayer (R) **1.0** Lunchtime Concert. From this year's Granada festival, the Casals Quartet play Mendelssohn, plus music by Paisiello for soprano and guitar, and Schumann's Fantasy Pieces played by viola player Tabea Zimmermann. **2.0** Afternoon Concert. The Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra with Strauss's An Alpine Symphony and Adès' The Exterminating Angel Symphony. **5.0** In Tune **7.0** In Tune Mixtape **7.30** In Concert. From the Barbican, London, Simon Rattle conducts the London Symphony Orchestra in Daniel Kidane's Sun Poem, Frank Bridge's Enter Spring and Elgar's Symphony No 2. **10.0** Free Thinking. David Petts shares his findings from a dig of the early medieval monastery on Lindisfarne. **10.45** The Essay: Coming Home. Writer Dr Shahed Yousaf drives home to Birmingham from a demanding day at work. (2/5) **11.0** Night Tracks **12.30** Through the Night

Radio 4

6.0am Today **8.31** (LW) Yesterday in Parliament **9.0** The Life Scientific. Jim Al-Khalili talks to mental health scientist Emily Holmes. (3/7) **9.30** One to One (3/7) **9.45** (LW) Daily Service **9.45** (FM) Book of the Week: Fen, Bog & Swamp. By Annie Proulx. (2/5) **10.0** Woman's Hour **11.0** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry. Hannah Fry and Adam Rutherford investigate nuclear fusion. (6/6) **11.30** Icon. Press intrusion into the lives of Elizabeth Taylor and other celebrities. (2/6) **12.0** News **12.01** (LW) Shipping Forecast **12.04** Call You and Yours **12.57** Weather **1.0** The World at One **1.45** Just One Thing With Michael Mosley **2.0** The Archers (R) **2.15** Calls from Far Away. Drama, by Katherine Soper. **3.0** Short Cuts. Short documentaries and adventures in sound on the theme of mortality. (3/5) **3.30** (FM) BBC National Short Story Award 2022. The first story on this year's shortlist. (1/5) **4.0** The Listening Project **4.30** Great Lives. Cressida Cowell on Swedish children's

author Astrid Lindgren. (8/9) **5.0** PM **5.54** (LW) Shipping Forecast **5.57** Weather **6.0** News **6.30** Alone. Ellie tries wild swimming. (6/6) **7.0** The Archers **7.15** Front Row **8.0** The Today Debate: What Do We Want from Our Monarchy? Mishaal Husain and a panel of experts consider the challenges ahead for the new King. **8.40** In Touch **9.0** Can the Police Keep Us Safe? (R) **9.30** The Life Scientific (R) **10.0** The World Tonight **10.45** Book at Bedtime: Stone Blind (2/10) **11.0** Fortunately **11.30** BBC National Short Story Award 2022 **12.0** News **12.30** Book of the Week (R) **12.48** Shipping **1.0** As World Service **5.20** Shipping **5.30** News **5.43** Prayer for the Day **5.45** Farming Today **5.58** Tweet of the Day (R)

Radio 4 Extra

6.0am Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (5/8) **6.30** The Cry of the Owl (1/4) **7.0** The Break (4/6) **7.30** Alone (5/6) **8.0** The Goon Show **8.30** King Street Junior (6/8) **9.0** The News Quiz (2/7) **9.30** The Older Woman (3/6) **10.0** Cold Comfort Farm (1/4) **11.0** Good Luck Professor Spiegelhalter

12.0 The Goon Show **12.30** King Street Junior (6/8) **1.0** Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (5/8) **1.30** The Cry of the Owl (1/4) **2.0** In Montparnasse (2/5) **2.15** Eleanor Rising (2/5) **2.30** The Blonde Women of India **3.0** Cold Comfort Farm (1/4) **4.0** The 3rd Degree (4/6) **4.30** The Older Woman (3/6) **5.0** The Break (4/6) **5.30** Alone (5/6) **6.0** The Slide (5/7) **6.30** Soul Music (3/5) **7.0** The Goon Show **7.30** King Street Junior (6/8) **8.0** Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (5/8) **8.30** The Cry of the Owl (1/4) **9.0** Good Luck Professor Spiegelhalter **10.0** Comedy Club: Alone (5/6) **10.30** Think the Unthinkable (2/4) **11.0** Party (3/4) **11.30** 2000 Years of Radio (1/6) **11.45** Paperback Hell (1/6) **12.0** The Slide (5/7) **12.30** Soul Music (3/5) **1.0** Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (5/8) **1.30** The Cry of the Owl (1/4) **2.0** In Montparnasse (2/5) **2.15** Eleanor Rising (2/5) **2.30** The Blonde Women of India **3.0** Cold Comfort Farm (1/4) **3rd** Degree (4/6) **4.30** The Older Woman (3/6) **5.0** The Break (4/6) **5.30** Alone (5/6)

Yesterday's solutions

Wordsearch



Solution no 16,339



Sudoku no 5791

7	6	9	1	4	2	3	5	8
3	4	8	5	7	9	6	1	2
2	5	1	6	8	3	7	4	9
4	9	3	7	2	8	5	6	1
1	2	7	3	6	5	9	8	4
5	8	6	9	1	4	2	3	7
9	7	4	8	3	6	1	2	5
6	1	2	4	5	7	8	9	3
8	3	5	2	9	1	4	7	6

Word wheel
EXCHANGED

Suguru

2	1	2	3	4	5
3	4	5	1	2	3
1	2	3	4	5	4
3	4	1	2	1	2
1	2	3	4	5	3
3	4	5	1	2	1

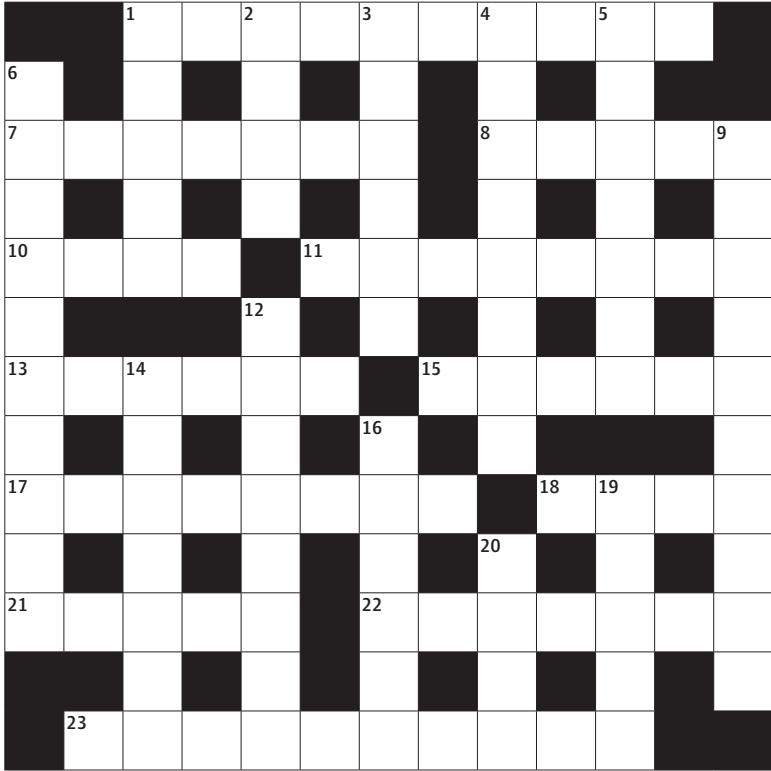
Quick crossword no 16,340

Across

- 1 For example, 'a Toyota's a Toyota' (10)
7 Any phenomenally large number (7)
8 For example, a thumb (5)
10 Cheese from the north of Holland (4)
11 Small preliminary model of a larger intended work (8)
13 Annoyingly playful (6)
15 Horrific smell (6)
17 Cut and run (4,4)
18 Kind of rock (4)
21 Dinar (anag) (5)
22 Alligator pear (7)
23 Make worse (10)

Down

- 1 Bohemian dance in fast time (5)
2 What eggs get? (4)
3 Grannies (informal) (6)
4 Fortifications added to a defensive position (8)
5 Nuclear explosive power unit (7)
6 Tashkent's country (10)
9 Wed (3,3,4)
12 Abstruse (8)
14 Logical statement that contradicts itself (7)
16 Above ground level (3-3)
19 Habitual practice (5)
20 Couch (4)



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Sudoku no 5792

Medium. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

			2		
9	5		7	4	
6					3
	4	2		5	
3	7	8	9	1	2
	8		1	3	
8	1				3
			1	8	2
		9			

Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

			5		
5					
		4			
				2	
1	3				
	2	5		4	

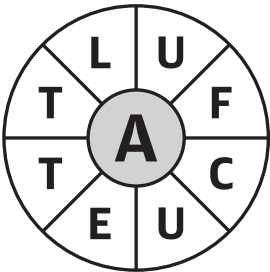
Wordsearch

Can you find 15 words associated with darts in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

R	E	B	M	U	N	D	Y	M
S	P	O	R	T	F	K	I	O
C	E	N	T	R	E	S	W	U
P	L	K	I	A	S	D	F	T
L	E	E	R	I	R	L	S	E
A	H	C	A	O	I	R	L	R
Y	I	H	N	G	C	B	O	A
E	E	C	H	A	U	L	G	W
R	M	T	N	O	T	E	S	O
T	A	A	D	P	D	S	A	I
N	G	M	R	E	N	N	I	S

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-35. Good-29. Average-21.



Pet corner

What is the most common name for a goldfish?
a. Amber
b. Jaws
c. Splish
d. Spongebob
Answer top right



A gilded funeral that reveals where our anxieties lie *Charlotte Higgins, page 3*

Republicanism is lonely, but it's where I stand *Moya Lothian-McLean, page 4*

Can medicine help people who are 'allergic to the world'? *The long read, page 5*

G2
Daily
pullout
life &
arts
section
Inside

The Guardian **Tuesday 20 September 2022**

**The death of
Queen Elizabeth II**

**Opinion
and ideas**

Journal

The question is, was this queen bigger than monarchy itself?

Thousands of words may have been spoken and sung at the funeral of Queen Elizabeth II, but the most intensely eloquent moment of all was a silence. It came after the mournful last post had sounded, and before the rousing, cheery notes of the

**Marina
Hyde**



reveille, itself followed by God Save the King. That's quite a key change. In that silence hung the scale of what is being orchestrated, and the eternal fragility of it, too. For all the tears shed, all the moving personal respects paid, all the pilgrimages to London, all the uncomplaining hours queued, all the streets lined, all the flowers reverentially laid, these things are not allowed - cannot be allowed - to overwhelm the essential premise of royalty: the idea that no one is bigger than the club.

Every royal rite of passage is choreographed to create a sense of renewal. From births to weddings, the populace is encouraged not simply to celebrate but to take the sense that the institution of the crown is being revitalised and strengthened. Even funerals are not allowed to be any different. We can never quite work out whether we want royals to be just like us or nothing like us, but in this, they are wholly other. Among ordinary people, a funeral is a funeral, and doesn't end with the apotheosis of the living.

In part, the nine-year-old Prince George and his seven-year-old sister, Charlotte, joined the procession behind the Queen's coffin as it entered Westminster Abbey today to show love for a great-grandmother. But courtiers also welcome the children's high-

profile presence as a reminder to the people that the Windsors are long and strong in heirs. It's a family show, and sons and daughters have to be put on the stage. A handwritten card on the Queen's coffin today bore the inscription "In loving and devoted memory. Charles R". Twenty-five years ago, at the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, an envelope on the coffin had read simply "Mummy".

But those at the palaces who coordinate these stunningly beautiful, matchless spectacles - who spend years and even decades rehearsing for them - know there is always jeopardy. The magic sometimes doesn't work. Barely four years ago, you couldn't move for knowing commentators explaining that the marriage of Prince Harry to Meghan Markle had dazzlingly renewed the House of Windsor, as part of a brilliant strategic modernisation by the crown. Those takes were soon retired, either quietly, or loudly and viciously. Meanwhile, the Abbey today contained plenty of representatives of former royal families for whom the ineffable trick at some point stopped working. Fit your own air quotes, but the funeral guest list included people who style themselves as the Prince of Venice, the Custodian of the Crown of Romania, and Tsar Simeon II of Bulgaria.

*
Marina Hyde
will join
Guardian Live
for events in
Manchester
(4 October)
and London
(10 October) to
discuss her new
book, *What
Just Happened?!*
Details at
[theguardian.com/
guardianlive](https://theguardian.com/guardianlive)

2
The question is, was this queen bigger than monarchy itself?

Marina Hyde

← Continued from front



Underpinning much of our crown’s bravura pageantry is the sense that nothing, ever, can be taken for granted.

In this abiding enterprise, silence often remains golden. US politicians, a Disneyfied White Rabbit, the mindfulness coaches of today – at different times, all these have uttered a line the Queen never spoke but seemed to spend her life of service embodying: “Don’t just do something – stand there.” The mourning period has seen the institution giving a masterclass in enduring and mostly wordless spectacle. Big guns have been brought out, figuratively and literally. Ordinary people who revered her sense of duty have felt it their own duty to pay her their respects. Many have surprised themselves by feeling far more emotional than they’d imagined. They were not ready for a 96-year-old sovereign to go.

At the funeral of his agent in 1999, the actor Bill Murray fixed the Hollywood audience with a deadpan stare. “There are so many people here today,” he began, “that I would so much rather be eulogising.” He then looked directly into the eyes of certain members of the audience. “Like you. And you. And you. And you. And you.” You can’t do this at a state funeral, of course, despite yesterday’s congregation boasting several candidates for getting “the look”. Fortunately, crown prince Mohammed bin Salman seems to have discovered a diary clash at the last minute, while 13th fairy Vladimir Putin was never on the list. But the Chinese vice-president, Wang Qishan, made the cut, as did Brazil’s Jair Bolsonaro and the authoritarian Egyptian president, Abdel Fatah al-Sisi. Spare a thought/laugh for the many puffed-up presidents and prime ministers and global bigwigs present in the Abbey imagining their own send-offs, and realising that compared to this, those would tend toward the low key.

But still they pay obeisance, with even the Japanese emperor submitting to the supposed indignity of park-and-ride coaches to the Abbey. For all her celebrated lack of vanity, one can’t imagine those image-conscious courtiers would ever have let the Queen herself be just another figure on an international dignitary bus. So there remains something undeniably unique about her final event, in a church whose building Edward the Confessor began almost a thousand years ago. All flags on public buildings in the US have flown at half-mast for a full 10 days. Landmarks around the world shone red, white and blue, or went dark. It is difficult to imagine anyone else for whom all these things would have been done.

Was she, then, bigger than the club? After initial scepticism about her youth on accession, Winston Churchill quickly came to believe that the Queen was something more than merely special. “All the film people in the world, if they had scoured the globe, could not have found someone so suited to the part.” For 70 years, Elizabeth II created a version of the monarchy that many supporters came to worry would work only with her at the centre. For the past 10 or 20 years of her life, this was something that could be said, and was. Over the past 10 days, the hush has descended. As her son ascends to the throne at the age of 73, all manner of people hold their breath to see if her youth policy will be borne out.

For, unprecedented in most living memory, the period of national mourning since the Queen’s death has been tinged with a sense that it could never be this way again. There is something in the sheer longevity of reign and the breadth of historical upheaval in which she nonetheless remained an iconic constant that feels unrepeatable. Do they make them like they used to? To many, today felt not just like watching a moment in history, but watching the embodiment of a now-vanished past pass finally into history. From David Beckham to non-famous mourners to foreign politicians to local mayors, it’s striking that so many different people found themselves in front of cameras over the past 10 days producing exactly the same phrase: “We’ll never see her like again.”

The Guardian

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‘Comment is free... but facts are sacred’ CP Scott

The crown

The Queen’s passing is an opportunity for parliament to reform the monarchy

The body of Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest last night beside that of her husband in a private ceremony in the King George VI memorial chapel at Windsor Castle. The country’s longest-serving monarch was taken on a 25-mile journey from Westminster Hall, where her body had lain in state for hundreds of thousands of people, some waiting in a queue for almost a day, to file past to pay their respects.

To those who could not get to London to witness the pageantry and pomp of the royal cortege, every major television network beamed live images for her son’s subjects – and the world – to watch. How many people felt moved by the Queen’s death, and how many were not, will likely never be known. However, her funeral confirmed that the symbolic power of the monarchy has risen even as its political power has declined.

Royal rituals are contrived affairs meant to generate popular attachment to a privileged institution and to serve as reminders of a glorious past. Monarchy’s power rests upon a central myth; that traditions and ceremonies have remained unchanged over 1,000 years of family drama. In reality the parades and commemoration services have been invented, and reinvented, to preserve the monarchy’s relevance. However, they are also essentially ephemeral, devoid of anything more powerful than that which is sentimental and evocative. How much Britain will be changed once this moment floats past the country is as yet unknown.

If a shift has taken place, the question of what was the nature of it – and what exactly shifted – remains unanswered. At times it has felt over the last week that there has been a striking absence, bar honourable exceptions, of voices sceptical of the crown. Cowing people into silence won’t end discussions about the monarchy’s role in modern life. The police’s heavy-handed response to the small handful of anti-royal protesters was particularly ill-judged. The law still permits bad manners and poor taste. Even at a time of national grief for many people, Britons ought to be able to exercise their right to free speech.

Literacy

Falling levels of enjoyment among child readers, and a lack of books, are worrying

If there was one good thing to come out of lockdowns, it was improved book sales and rates of reading, especially among children. A survey of 70,000 children and young people by the National Literacy Trust, however, has found this gain is now gone: figures are now equal to just before the pandemic, when the trust recorded the lowest levels of reading enjoyment (just under 50%) since it first asked the question 17 years ago. A concurrent study of 8,000 five- to eight-year-olds found that nearly one in five did not have a book at home.

These questions are not about basic literacy but about the habit of reading: the children surveyed spoke of books giving them subjects to talk about; of entertainment and information; of reading helping them to understand people unlike themselves; of finding in books a place of escape and a mitigation of loneliness; of aid in coping with difficulty. “It

At times it felt like the ground rules of our country could not be talked about. It is not necessary for such a debate to be conducted in a respectful manner – but it would be better if it was. The monarchy is the crowning anachronism of British society and a wave of infantilising coverage, and some real sorrow for a loved monarch, seems to have muffled any talk of reform. Yet in a fractured kingdom, the departure of the Queen ought to give pause for thought about what it means for her son to take over. Since Charles instantaneously became King on his mother’s death, it already feels too late. As the playwright George Bernard Shaw observed: “Kings are not born: they are made by universal hallucination.”

There is nothing rational about monarchy. As events this week have demonstrated, the royal family is closer to a religion, stirring emotions that transcend logic but appeal to mystical triggers deep within our collective psyche. Perhaps the death of the monarch sparked an upsurge in community and solidarity. But such feelings can disappear as quickly as they came. What remains is monarchical power without much accountability. The great success of Elizabeth II as Queen was to keep her exercise of power out of the public view, so that it was not threatened by public scrutiny.

Yet the royal prerogative – to deploy the armed forces, make and unmake international treaties and to grant honours – is unchecked. Although exercised by ministers in the crown’s name, these powers lie at the heart of the constitution and largely beyond judicial reach. King Charles III may think it is time to become more visibly active in public life or, wary of public opinion, might opt for a more ceremonial role. The evidence so far suggests the former. It’s hard to imagine the late Queen letting it be known – as her son, the King, did last Friday – that there were royal concerns that people would not be able to cope during a “difficult winter”, especially as the cost of living crisis did not prevent a 17% increase in palace spending last year.

Parliament is the place to decide if – and how – the monarchy should be remodelled. With the Conservative government apparently moving to implement a radical pro-business agenda of reducing workers’ rights and increasing bankers’ bonuses, old social and political relationships are threatened with disruption as new ones are established. In such an era of change and flux, it is bizarre that the crown remains territory where parliamentarians fear to tread.

helps me in learning about what I am feeling. That is because I have a hard time expressing my emotions and would rather not bother anyone,” as one child put it.

Children who read at home are six times more likely to be able to read above expected levels, while one study of 160,000 adults from 31 countries found children whose homes held at least 80 books, but whose schooling ended at 13 or 14, were “as literate, numerate and technologically apt in adulthood as university graduates who grew up with only a few books”. Another found these children also went on to earn more.

It is not that most parents and carers don’t understand this. A reason often cited for the lack of books at home is the cost of living. Almost a fifth of Britain’s public libraries have closed in 10 years, while one in eight primary schools in England, rising to one in four in disadvantaged communities, do not have a library or designated reading space. Furthermore, the Department for Education, with its insistence on systematic synthetic phonics, would do well to heed the number of children who told the National Literacy Trust that teaching in primary schools had put them off reading. Compared with other problems this country faces, providing varied reading material is relatively straightforward to fix. We owe it to children to do so.



A gilded funeral and rituals that reveal where our anxieties lie

Charlotte Higgins



The mise-en-scène seemed oddly familiar. It took me a moment to work out why. Then I realised: it was from the theatre, from endless RSC and National Theatre productions of Shakespeare history plays. The kinds that have a knowing mixture of costumes from different periods: a touch of Tudor, a soupçon of Hanoverian, a dash of modern high fashion, a studied contemporary ordinariness for the proletariat hangers-on outside.

But no costume department could ever rival the accoutrements seen at the late Queen's funeral and her lying in state. Oh, the glint of the cuirasses, the snowiness of the swans' plumes! The pikes and swords, the halberds and bows, the epaulettes and aiguillettes! The bearskins, the ruffs, the bonnets, the croziers, the chasubles, the mitres, the cockades.

Oddly enough, I was at the last state funeral – that is, I was present at the filming of a scene set during the state funeral of Winston Churchill for the TV series *The Crown*. Was that any less real than what unfolded in Westminster Abbey yesterday? Ritual and religion, pageantry and power, magnificence and make-believe – all are first cousins to theatre. In ancient Athens, where theatre was born, plays were mounted in honour of the god Dionysus and preceded by a state procession – the *pompe*, from which we get our word pomp.

All plays want to suspend our disbelief. The point of the giant immersive drama into which the UK has been drawn since 8 September is to persuade us to collude in the fantasy that the royals are more than human. That the monarchy itself, and the transference of the crown from mother to son, is legitimate. To renovate the notion that in the royal family is encapsulated some ineffable and inalienable “Britishness” that binds the people of the UK together, despite our present woes.

There is jeopardy at many points in this drama, of course: will it all go off without a hitch? Will people deliver their lines well, and without incident? (In fact the prime minister, Liz Truss, read “In my father's house are many mansions” – that great passage from the gospel of St John – with all the sensitivity of a bored surveyor describing a condemned block of council flats.) Will those stricken-faced young men who bear

King Charles and the Queen Consort follow the Queen's coffin into St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH:
BEN BIRCHALL/PA

*
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What we have watched is, of course, a script, but this particular show is accompanied by commentary telling us how to think

the coffin do so without letting fall the crown, the orb, the sceptre, the wreath? The diamond globe and cross from the top of the imperial crown tumbled from the coffin during George V's funeral procession; the horses dragging the gun carriage bolted at Victoria's. But yes, this lot have it down. The dancer Pina Bausch had nothing on the delicious crabwise steps they dance to move their delicate cargo from plane to hearse, from catafalque to gun carriage.

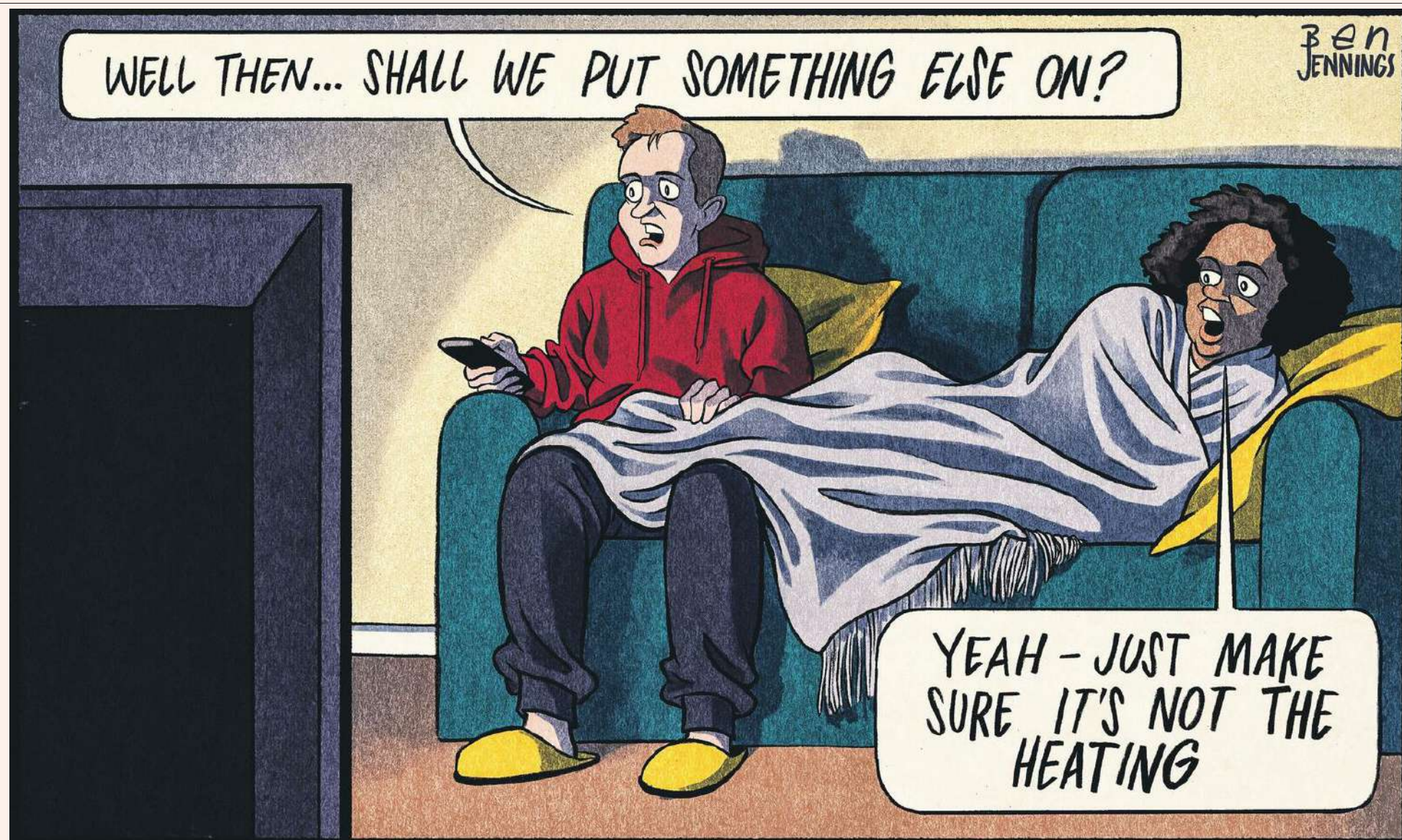
What we have watched is, of course, a script, written long ago, rehearsed exhaustively. Unlike most plays, though, this particular show is accompanied by a commentary telling its audience what to think and how to feel. The death of George VI was also brought to you by the BBC, albeit to nearly everyone only on the wireless. Richard Dimbleby's atmospheric, ringingly poetic words at the time did something to cement the popularity of the monarchy. The coverage in 1952 admittedly had its problems – on the day of the King's death, the BBC simply stopped broadcasting, with the result that “in many remote rural districts, householders ... sent for the local repair man,” according to Mollie Panter-Downes's report in the *New Yorker*. This time silence has not been the problem. Nor has any BBC journalist reached Dimbleby's rhetorical heights. The tone is fulsome and mawkish. Huw Edwards would make Uriah Heep blush.

Planned for, yes; scripted, yes – but the historian David Cannadine, in a classic essay on the invention of tradition, debunked the notion of the antiquity of royal ceremonial occasions. “The majority of the great royal pageants staged during the first three-quarters of the 19th century oscillated between farce and fiasco,” he wrote. At George IV's funeral, William IV talked constantly and walked out early. “We never saw so motley, so rude, so ill-managed a body of persons,” wrote the *Times* of the mourners.

It was from the late 19th century, as democracy gained purchase, that the arcane-seeming royal ceremonials piled up, ever more elaborate and persuasive. In 1910, it was Edward VII who was the first to lie in state as the public filed by. George V in 1936 and George VI were the first to have their coffins pulled on gun carriages by naval ratings. The British somehow convinced themselves they had always been better at royal pageantry than other nations, though since so many others had dispensed with their monarchs the field lay relatively open.

From the perspective of 2022, it feels that the more wretched, bitter and badly governed the country becomes, the more splendid and gilded the royal ceremonies, and the more outrageous the national self-delusion. Nevertheless, the past 12 days' rituals, with their small tweaks and innovations, cannot help but point to where the national anxieties lie. That the King should dash from Scotland to Northern Ireland and Wales between his mother's death and funeral tells you all you need to know about the fragility of the union; that the Commonwealth was so lavishly invoked during the funeral rites was a reminder that the angry ghosts of empire are massing outside the palace and cathedral doors.

For now, that's it: the curtain has gone down and the audience are emerging, blinking, into the harsh light of real life. But this is only the interval. Brace yourself for act two: the coronation.



Republicanism is lonely, but it's where I stand

Moya Lothian-McLean



I have always harboured a secret fear that I could be a “soft royalist”. The ingredients were all there: I’m a history buff who is fascinated by the machinations surrounding Britain’s monarchs of yore; I have a weakness for nostalgia; I own the updated version of Tina Brown’s 2007 biographical opus on Diana, Princess of Wales. I have no particular personal dislike of the royals as individuals and I have found myself feeling truly sympathetic, such as when Queen Elizabeth II lost her husband of 73 years during lockdown.

But the past 12 days have revealed just how staunch my republican principles really are; they fortified them, in fact. It seems obvious: rather than passing the sceptre, we should be taking

this opportunity to throw it on to the scrapheap of history. Away from the wall-to-wall coverage paying tribute to the deceased monarch, multiple stories testify to the suspension of common sense required to maintain the existence of the royals, justifying cancelling medical appointments in the middle of a deadly NHS backlog, or arguing for the right of the new king not to pay inheritance tax on the hundreds of millions he has inherited from his mother.

Yet while the reaction to the Queen’s death has entrenched my republicanism, it seems to have done the opposite to much of the country. The might of tradition has worked its hegemonic magic and rallied support for the royals, even among my peers, the much touted “young Brits” who had supposedly “turned their backs on the monarchy”.

YouGov opinion polling from 11 September found that while 18- to 25-year-olds were more unsure about the monarchy than older cohorts were, 40% still supported its existence; and this figure increases to 53% among 25- to 49-year-olds.

Data also suggests that republican sentiments held while younger are likely to be eroded by age. Only 14% of under-35s were willing to say the monarchy was “very important” to Britain in 2021, in contrast with 44% of those aged 55 and over. According to the poll maven John Curtice, this is a historical pattern – that gap is much the same as it was in 1994. Those who have cautioned republicans essentially to wait out a short-term boost of support for the royals after the Queen’s death may find themselves disappointed.

Even armed with that realism, it is still jarring to watch so many fall into line. For example, those who claim to have republican tendencies but have found themselves capitulating in the face of the state machine, seeing it as a mark of “respect” to Elizabeth not to actively oppose the continuation of the monarchy.

Then there’s the “royalist or not, it’s hard not to be moved by this celebration of the Queen” crowd, which seems to include younger people wanting to partake of some collective sentiment. It’s a surreal feeling to be suddenly so out on a limb by thinking: “Well, actually, it’s very easy not to be moved. Straightforward, even.”

If I find myself moved to any particular emotion then it is anger, that enforced mourning will bring further suffering to the already struggling, that dissenting voices are being repressed, that the concept of “respect” is being invoked by so many people and yet afforded to so few.

On Saturday, I pushed my way through throngs of royal mourners in central London on my way to a smaller gathering, just yards away, outside New Scotland Yard. The demo was to protest at the police shooting of an unarmed 24-year-old Black man, Chris Kaba. As we stood there, listening to the heartache of Kaba’s bereaved family and friends, along with relatives of some of the 1,833 people who have died after contact with the police in England and Wales in the past 32 years, a woman stalked past and shouted, “Someone’s mother has died.”

It was a moment so surreal, the violence – and I don’t use that word lightly – of it so shocking that it was hard to fully comprehend. The sentiment so often silent had been uttered, loud and clear. One life is not equal to another. To live in a country that is governed by royalty means fealty not just in deed but also in thought. And it means a commitment – often unconscious – to preserving inequity, whether the royalism is “soft” or not.

Perhaps some day soon, republicanism will regain its non-partisan footing. But until then, I know where I stand, and I have never been more sure of being wedded to such an unpopular belief.

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The long read

Allergic to the world

Can medicine help
people with multiple
chemical sensitivity?
By Xi Chen



Sharon calls herself a universal reactor. In the 1990s, she became allergic to the world, to the mould colonising her home and the paint coating her kitchen walls, but also deodorants, soaps and anything containing plastic. Public spaces rife with artificial fragrances were unbearable. Scented disinfectants and air fresheners in hospitals made visiting doctors torture. The pervasiveness of perfumes and colognes barred her from in-person social gatherings. Even stepping into her own back garden was complicated by the whiff of pesticides and her neighbour’s laundry detergent. When modern medicine failed to identify the cause of Sharon’s illness, exiting society felt like her only solution. She started asking her husband to strip and shower every time he came home. Grandchildren greeted her through a window. When we met for the first time, Sharon had been housebound for more than six years.

When I started medical school, the formaldehyde-based solutions used to embalm the cadavers in the human anatomy labs would cause my nose to burn and my eyes to well up - representing the mild, mundane end of a chemical sensitivity spectrum. The other extreme of the spectrum is an environmental intolerance of unknown cause (referred to as idiopathic by doctors) or, as it is commonly known, multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS). An official definition of MCS does not exist because the condition is not recognised as a distinct medical entity by the World Health Organization or the American Medical Association, although it has been recognised as a disability in countries such as Germany and Canada.

Disagreement over the validity of the disease is partially due to the lack of a distinct set of signs and symptoms, or an accepted cause. When Sharon reacts, she experiences symptoms from seemingly every organ system, from brain fog to chest pain, diarrhoea, muscle aches, depression and odd rashes. There are many different triggers for MCS, sometimes extending beyond chemicals to food and even electromagnetic fields. Consistent physical findings and reproducible lab results have not been found and, as a result, people such as Sharon not only endure severe, chronic illness but also scrutiny over whether their condition is “real”.

The first reported case of MCS was published in the Journal of Laboratory and Clinical Medicine in 1952 by the American allergist Theron Randolph. Although he claimed to have previously encountered 40 cases, Randolph chose to focus on the story of one woman, 41-year-old Nora Barnes. She had arrived at Randolph’s office at Northwestern University in Illinois with a diverse and bizarre array of symptoms. A former cosmetics salesperson, she represented an “extreme case”. She was always tired, her arms and legs were swollen, and headaches and intermittent blackouts ruined her ability to work. A doctor had previously diagnosed her with hypochondria, but Barnes was desperate for a “real” diagnosis.

Randolph noted that the drive into Chicago from Michigan had worsened her symptoms, which spontaneously resolved when she checked into her room on the 23rd floor of a hotel where, Randolph reasoned, she was far away from the noxious motor exhaust filling the streets. In fact, in his report Randolph listed 30 substances that Barnes reacted to when touched (nylon, nail polish), ingested

(aspirin, food dye), inhaled (perfume, the “burning of pine in fireplace”) and injected (the synthetic opiate meperidine, and Benadryl).

He posited that Barnes and his 40 other patients were sensitive to petroleum products in ways that defied the classic clinical picture of allergies. That is, rather than an adverse immune response, such as a rash where the body is reacting to a particular antigen, patients with chemical sensitivities were displaying an *intolerance*. Randolph theorised that, just as people who are lactose-intolerant experience abdominal pain, diarrhoea and gas because of undigested lactose creating excess fluid in their gastrointestinal tract, his patients were vulnerable to toxicity at relatively low concentrations of certain chemicals that they were unable to metabolise. He even suggested that chemical sensitivity research was being suppressed by “the ubiquitous distribution of petroleum and wood products”. MCS, he believed, was not only a matter of scientific exploration, but also of deep-seated corporate interest. Randolph concludes his report with his recommended treatment: avoidance of exposure.

In that one-page abstract, Randolph cut the ribbon on the novel but controversial field of environmental medicine. Nowadays, we hardly question the ties between the environment and wellbeing. The danger of secondhand smoke, the realities of climate change and the endemic nature of respiratory maladies such as asthma are common knowledge. The issue was that Randolph’s patients lacked abnormal test results (specifically, diagnostic levels of immunoglobulin E, a blood marker that is elevated during an immune response). Whatever afflicted them were not conventional allergies, so conventional allergists resisted Randolph’s hypotheses.

Randolph was in the dark. Why was MCS only now rearing its head? He also asked another, more radical question: why did this seem to be a distinctly American phenomenon? After all, the only other mention of chemical sensitivities in medical literature was in the US neurologist George Miller Beard’s 1880 textbook A Practical Treatise on Nervous Exhaustion (Neurasthenia). Beard argued that sensitivity to foods containing alcohol or caffeine was associated with neurasthenia, a now-defunct term used to describe the exhaustion of the nervous system propagated by the US’s frenetic culture of productivity. Like Beard, Randolph saw chemical sensitivities as a disease of modernity, and conceived the origin as wear-and-tear as opposed to overload.

Randolph proposed that Americans, propelled by the post-second world war boom, had encountered synthetic chemicals more and more in their workplaces and homes, at concentrations considered acceptable for most people. Chronic exposure to these subtoxic dosages, in conjunction with genetic predispositions, strained the body and made patients vulnerable. On the back of this theory, Randolph developed a new

PREVIOUS PAGE:
GETTY/GUARDIAN
DESIGN

Black mould, often blamed as a cause of MCS symptoms
ALAMY



branch of medicine and, with colleagues, founded the Society for Clinical Ecology, now known as the American Academy of Environmental Medicine.

As his professional reputation teetered, his popularity soared and patients flocked to his care. Despite this growth in interest, researchers never identified blood markers in MCS patients, and trials found that people with MCS couldn’t differentiate between triggers and placebos. By 2001, a review in the Journal of Internal Medicine found MCS virtually nonexistent outside western industrialised countries, despite the globalisation of chemical use, suggesting that the phenomenon was culturally bound.

MCS subsequently became a diagnosis of exclusion, used after every other possibility was eliminated. The empirical uncertainty came to a head in 2021, when Quebec’s public health agency published an 840-page report concluding that MCS is an anxiety disorder. In medicine, psychiatric disorders are not intrinsically inferior; serious mental illness is, after all, the product of neurological dysfunction. But the MCS patients I spoke to found the language offensive and irresponsible. Reducing what they felt in their eyes, throats, lungs and guts to anxiety was not acceptable.

As a woman I will call Judy told me: “I would tell doctors my symptoms, and then they’d run a blood count and tell me I looked fine, that it must be stress, so they’d shove a prescription for an antidepressant in my face and tell me to come back in a year.” In fact, because MCS is so stigmatising, such patients may never receive the specialised care they need. In the wake of her “treatment”, Judy was frequently bedbound from crushing fatigue, and no one took her MCS seriously. “I think a lot of doctors fail to understand that we are intelligent,” she said. “A lot of us spend a good amount of our time researching and reading scientific papers. I probably spent more of my free time reading papers than most doctors.”

Judy grew up in Texas, where she developed irritable bowel syndrome and was told by doctors that she was stressed. Her 20s were spent in Washington state where she worked as a consultant before a major health crash left her bedbound for years. Later, after moving to Massachusetts, a new paint job at her home gave her fatigue and diarrhoea. She used to browse the local art museum every Saturday, but even fumes from the paintings irritated her symptoms. She visited every primary care doctor in her city, as well as gastroenterologists, cardiologists, neurologists, endocrinologists and geneticists. Most reacted the same way: with a furrowed brow and an antidepressant prescription in hand. “Not one allopathic doctor has ever been able to help me,” Judy said.

Morton Teich is one of the few physicians who diagnoses and treats patients with MCS in New York. The entrance to his private practice is hidden away behind a side door in a grey-brick building on Park Avenue. As I entered the waiting room, the first thing to catch my eye was the monstrous mountain of folders and binders precariously hugging a wall, in lieu of an electronic medical record. I half-expected Teich’s clinic to resemble the environmental isolation unit used by Randolph in the 1950s, with an airlocked entrance, blocked ventilation shafts and stainless-steel air-filtration devices, books and newspapers in sealed boxes, and water in glass bottles instead of a cooler. But there were none of the above. The clinic was like any other family medicine practice I had seen before; it was just very old. The physical examination rooms had brown linoleum floors and green metal chairs and tables. And there were no windows.

Although several of Teich’s patients were chemically sensitive, MCS was rarely the central focus of visits. When he introduced me to his first patient of the day, a petrol-intolerant woman whose appointment was over the phone because she was housebound, she admitted to never having heard of the condition. “You have to remember,” Teich told me, “that MCS is a symptom. It’s just one aspect of my patients’ problems. My goal is to get a good history and find the underlying cause.” Later, when I asked him whether he had observed any patterns suggesting an organic cause of



MCS, he responded: “Mould. Almost always.” Many people with MCS I encountered online also cited mould as a probable cause. Sharon told me about her first episode in 1998, when she experienced chest pain after discovering black mould in her family’s trailer home. A cardiac examination had produced no remarkable results, and Sharon’s primary care physician declared that she was having a panic attack related to the stress of a recent miscarriage. Sharon recognised that this contributed to her sudden health decline, but also found that her symptoms resolved only once she began sleeping away from home. She found recognition in medical books such as Toxic (2016) by Neil Nathan, a retired family physician who argued that bodily sensitivities were the product of a hyper-reactive nervous system and a vigilant immune system that fired up in reaction to toxicities, much as Randolph had said. The conditions that Nathan describes are not supported by academic medicine as causes of MCS: mould toxicity and chronic Lyme disease are subject to the same critique.

Sharon went to see William Rea, a former surgeon (and Teich’s best friend). Rea diagnosed her with MCS secondary to mould toxicity. “Mould is everywhere,” Teich told me. “Not just indoors. Mould grows on leaves. That’s why people can become chemically sensitive during autumn.” When trees shed their leaves, he told me, mould spores fly into the air. He suspected that American mould is not American at all, but an invasive species that rode wind currents over the Pacific from China. He mentioned that his wife recently died from ovarian cancer. Her disease, he speculated, also had its roots in mould. In fact, Teich commonly treats patients with nystatin, an antifungal medication used to treat candida yeast infections, which often infect the mouth, skin and vagina. “I have an 80% success rate,” he told me. I was dubious that such a cheap and commonplace

Patients do not only have to endure severe, chronic illness, but also scrutiny over whether their condition is real

Vehicle exhaust was first cited as a trigger in the 1950s

ALAMY

drug was able to cure an illness as debilitating as MCS, but I could not sneer at his track record. Every patient I met while shadowing Teich was comfortably in recovery, with smiles and jokes, miles apart from the people I met in online support groups who seemed to be permanently in the throes of their illness. However, Teich was not practising medicine as I was taught it. This was a man who believed that the recombinant MMR vaccine could trigger “acute autism” - traditionally an anti-science point of view. When one of his patients, a charismatic bookworm I’ll call Mark, arrived at an appointment with severe, purple swelling up to his knees and a clear case of stasis dermatitis, Teich reflexively blamed mould and wrote a prescription for nystatin instead of urging Mark to see a cardiologist. When I asked how a fungal infection in Mark’s toes could cause such a bad rash on his legs, he responded: “We have candida everywhere, and its toxins are released into the blood and travel to every part of the body. The thing is, most people don’t notice until it’s too late.” Moulds and fungi are easy scapegoats for inexplicable illnesses because they are so ubiquitous in our indoor and outdoor environments. A great deal of concern

over mould toxicity stems from the concept of “sick-building syndrome”, in which visible black mould is thought to increase sensitivity and make people ill. This was true of Mark, who could point to the demolition of an old building across the street from his apartment as a source of mould in the atmosphere. Yet in mainstream medicine, diseases caused by moulds are restricted to allergies, hypersensitivity pneumonitis (an immunologic reaction to an inhaled agent, usually organic, within the lungs) and infection. Disseminated fungal infections occur almost exclusively in patients who are immunocompromised, hospitalised or have an invasive foreign body such as a catheter. Furthermore, if “clinical ecologists” such as Teich are correct that moulds such as candida can damage multiple organs, then it must be spreading through the bloodstream. But I have yet to encounter a patient with MCS who reported fever or other symptoms of sepsis (the traumatic, whole-body reaction to infection) as part of their experience. Teich himself did not use blood cultures to verify his claims of “systemic candidiasis”, and instead looked to chronic fungal infection of the nails, common in the general population, as sufficient proof. “I don’t need tests or blood work,” he told me. “I rarely ever order them. I can see with my eyes that he has mould, and that’s enough.” It was Teich’s common practice to ask his patients to remove their socks to reveal the inevitable ridges and splits on their big toenails, and that’s all he needed. Through Teich, I met a couple who were both chemically sensitive but otherwise just regular people. The wife, an upper-middle-class white woman I will call Cindy, had a long history of allergies and irritable bowel syndrome. She became ill whenever she smelled fumes or fragrances, especially laundry detergent and citrus or floral scents. Teich put both her and her husband on nystatin, and their sensitivities lessened dramatically. What struck me as different about her case, compared with other patients with MCS, was that Cindy was also on a course of antidepressants and cognitive behavioural therapy, the standard treatment for anxiety and depression. “It really helps to cope with all the stress that my illness causes. You learn to live despite everything,” she said. In contemporary academic medicine, stress and anxiety cause MCS, but MCS can itself cause psychiatric symptoms. Teich later told me, unexpectedly, that he had no illusions about whether MCS is a partly psychiatric illness: “Stress affects the adrenals, and that makes MCS worse. The mind and the body are not separate. We have to treat the whole person.”

To understand this case, I also spoke to Donald Black, associate chief of staff for mental health at the Iowa City Veterans Administration Health Care. He co-authored a recent article on idiopathic environmental intolerance that took a uniform stance on MCS as a psychosomatic disorder. In 1988, when Black was a new faculty member at the University of Iowa, he interviewed a patient entering a drug trial for obsessive-compulsive disorder. He asked the woman to list her medications, and watched as she started unloading strange supplements and a book about environmental illness from her bag. The woman had been seeing a psychiatrist in Iowa City - a colleague of Black’s - who had diagnosed her with systemic candidiasis. Black was flummoxed. If that diagnosis was true, then the woman would be very ill, not sitting calmly before him. Besides, it was not up to a psychiatrist to treat a fungal infection. How did he make the diagnosis? Did he do a physical or run blood tests? No, the patient told him, the psychiatrist just said that her symptoms were compatible with candidiasis. These symptoms included chemical sensitivities. After advising the patient to discard her supplements and find a new psychiatrist, Black made some phone calls and discovered that, indeed, his colleague had fallen in with the clinical ecologists. Black was intrigued by this amorphous condition that had garnered an endless number of names: environmentally induced





illness, toxicant-induced loss of tolerance, chemical hypersensitivity disease, immune dysregulation syndrome, cerebral allergy, 20th-century disease, and mould toxicity. In 1990, he solicited the aid of a medical student to find 26 subjects who had been diagnosed by clinical ecologists with chemical sensitivities and to conduct an “emotional profile”. Every participant in their study filled out a battery of questions that determined whether they satisfied any of the criteria for psychiatric disorders. Compared with the controls, the chemically sensitive subjects had 6.3 times higher lifetime prevalence of major depression, and 6.8 times higher lifetime prevalence of panic disorder or agoraphobia; 17% of the cases met the criteria for somatisation disorder (an extreme focus on physical symptoms - such as pain or fatigue - that causes major distress and problems functioning).

In my own review of the literature, it was clear that the most compelling evidence for MCS came from case studies of large-scale “initiating events” such as the Gulf war (where soldiers were uniquely exposed to pesticides and pyridostigmine bromide pills to protect against nerve agents) or the terrorist attacks on the US of 11 September 2001 (when toxins from the falling towers caused cancers and respiratory ailments for years). In both instances, a significant number of victims developed chemical intolerances compared with populations who were not exposed. From a national survey of veterans deployed in the Gulf war, researchers found that up to a third of respondents reported multi-symptom illnesses, including sensitivity to pesticides - twice the rate of veterans who had not deployed. Given that Gulf war veterans experienced post-traumatic stress disorder at levels similar to those in other military conflicts, the findings have been used to breathe new life into Randolph’s idea of postindustrial toxicities leading to intolerance. The same has been said of the first responders and the World Trade Centre’s nearby residents, who developed pulmonary symptoms when exposed to “cigarette smoke, vehicle exhaust, cleaning solutions, perfume, or other airborne irritants” after 9/11, according to a team at Mount Sinai.

Black, who doubts a real disease, has no current clinical experience with MCS patients. (Apart from the papers he wrote more than 20 years ago, he had seen only a handful of MCS patients over the course of his career.) Despite this, he had not only written the article about MCS, but also a guide in a major online medical manual on how to approach MCS treatment as a psychiatric disease. When I asked him if there was a way for physicians to regain the trust of patients who have been bruised by the medical system, he simply replied: “No.” For him, there would always be a subset of patients who are searching for answers or treatments that traditional medicine could not satisfy. Those were the people who saw clinical ecologists, or who left society altogether. In a time of limited resources, these were not the patients on which Black thought psychiatry needed to focus.

It became clear to me why even the de facto leading professional on MCS had hardly any experience actually treating MCS. In his 1990 paper, Black - then a young doctor - rightly observed that “traditional medical practitioners are probably insensitive to patients with vague complaints, and need to develop new approaches to keep them within the medical fold. The study subjects clearly believed that their clinical ecologists had something to offer them that others did not: sympathy, recognition of pain and suffering, a physical explanation for their suffering, and active participation in medical care.”

I wondered if Black had given up on these “new approaches” because few MCS patients wanted to see a psychiatrist in the first place.

Physicians on either side of the debate agreed that mental illness is a crucial part of treating MCS, with one I spoke to believing that stress causes MCS, and another believing that MCS causes stress. To reconcile the views, I interviewed another physician, Christine Oliver, a doctor of occupational medicine in Toronto, where she has served on the Ontario Task



People within the online MCS community call themselves ‘canaries’, providing a signal of danger. But is anyone listening?

Force on Environmental Health. Oliver believes that both stances are probably valid and true. “No matter what side you’re on,” she told me, “there’s a growing consensus that this is a public health problem.”

Oliver represents a useful third position, one that takes the MCS illness experience seriously while sticking closely to medical science. As one of few “MCS-agnostic” physicians, she believes in a physiological cause for MCS that we cannot know and therefore cannot treat directly due to lack of research. Oliver agrees with Randolph’s original suggestion of avoiding exposures, although she understands that this approach has resulted in traumatising changes in patients’ abilities to function. For her, the priority for MCS patients is a practical one: finding appropriate housing. Often unable to work and with a limited income, many of her patients occupy public housing or multi-family dwellings. The physician of an MCS patient must act like a social worker. Facilities such as hospitals, she feels, should be made more accessible by reducing scented cleaning products and soaps. Ultimately, finding a non-threatening space with digital access to healthcare providers and social support is the best way to allow the illness to run its course.

Whether organic or psychosomatic or something in between, MCS is a chronic illness. “One of the hardest things about being chronically ill,” wrote the American author Meghan O’Rourke in the New Yorker in 2013 about her battle against Lyme disease, “is that most people find what you’re going through incomprehensible - if they believe you *are* going through it. In your loneliness, your preoccupation with an enduring new reality, you want to be understood in a way that you can’t be.”

A language for chronic illness does not exist beyond symptomatology, because in the end symptoms are what debilitate “normal” human functioning. In chronic pain, analgesics can at least deaden a patient’s suffering. The same cannot be said for MCS symptoms, which are disorienting in their chaotic variety, inescapability and inexpressibility. There are few established avenues for patients to completely avoid

triggering their MCS, and so they learn to orient their lives around mitigating symptoms instead, whether that is a change in diet or moving house, as Sharon did. MCS comes to define their existence.

As a housebound person, Sharon’s ability to build a different life was limited. Outside, the world was moving forward, yet Sharon never felt left behind. What allowed her to live with chronic illness was not medicine or therapy, but the internet. On a typical day, Sharon wakes up and prays in bed. She wolfs down handfuls of pills and listens to upbeat music on YouTube while preparing her meals for the day: blended meats and vegetables, for easier swallowing. The rest of the day is spent on her laptop computer, checking email and Facebook, watching YouTube videos until her husband returns home in the evening. Then bed. This is how Sharon has lived for the past six years, and she does not expect anything different from the future. When I asked her if being homebound was lonely, I was taken aback at her reply: “No.”

In spite of not having met most of her 15 grandchildren, Sharon keeps in daily contact with all of them. In fact, Sharon communicates with others on a nearly constant basis. “Some people are very much extroverts,” Sharon wrote. “I certainly am. But there are also people who need physical touch ... and I can understand why they might need to see ‘real people’ then ... but it’s very possible to be content with online friends. This is my life!” The friendships that Sharon formed online with other housebound people with chronic illnesses were the longest-lasting and the most alive relationships she had ever known. She had never met her best friend of 20 years - their relationship existed completely through letters and emails, until two years ago, when the friend died. That “was very hard for me”, Sharon wrote.

The pandemic changed very little of Sharon’s life. If anything, Covid-19 improved her situation. Sharon’s local church live-streamed Sunday service, telehealth doctor appointments became the default, YouTube exploded in content, and staying indoors was normalised. Sharon saw her network steadily expand as more older adults became isolated in quarantine.

People within the online MCS community call themselves “canaries”, after the birds historically used as sentinels in coalmines to detect toxic levels of carbon monoxide. With a higher metabolism and respiratory rate, the small birds would theoretically perish before the less-sensitive human miners, providing a signal to escape. The question for people with MCS is: will anyone listen?

“Us canaries,” said a woman named Vera, who was bedbound from MCS for 15 years after a botched orthopaedic surgery, “we struggle and suffer in silence.” Now, in the information age, they have colonised the internet to find people like themselves. For our part, we must reimagine chronic illness - which will become drastically more common in the aftermath of the pandemic - where what matters to the patient is not only a scientific explanation and a cure, but also a way to continue living a meaningful life. This calls into action the distinction between illness and disease that the psychiatrist and anthropologist Arthur Kleinman made in his 1988 book *The Illness Narratives*. Whereas a disease is an organic process within the body, illness is the lived experience of bodily processes. “Illness problems,” he writes, “are the principal difficulties that symptoms and disability create in our lives.”

By centring conversations about MCS on whether or not it is real, we alienate the people whose illnesses have deteriorated their ability to function at home and in the world. After all, the fundamental mistrust does not lie in the patient-physician relationship, but between patients and their bodies. Chronic illness is a corporeal betrayal, an all-out assault on the coherent self. Academic medicine cannot yet shed light on the physiological mechanisms that would explain MCS. But practitioners and the rest of society must still meet patients with empathy and acceptance, making space for their narratives, their lives, and their experience in the medical and wider world. ●

This essay was originally published on aeon.co

A miner and a canary in 1965

HULTON/GETTY

✱
Xi Chen is a medical student and writer based in New York

Established 1906

Country diary
*Back Dale,
Derbyshire*

The sky was intermittently blue and weak sunshine sparked a faint chorus of grasshoppers. Otherwise, this was a landscape wrung dry of all summer and the grasses were grey, the thistles dead, if flossed with cottony seed. The only sounds were the long-drawn notes of young buzzards that were suffused with a sense of melancholy.

There were seven birds - adults and immatures - careering at one another in mock squabbles, or they would flap away with deep rhythmic wingbeats, before coming about and paddling up on the bluffs of warm air. Perhaps it was the way that their movements perturbed these rising currents, but 50 house martins and swallows circulated among them to feed, like children perhaps, playing but oblivious around the slower limbs of walking adults. It was a glorious, slow-twisting gyre of different flight modes.

Then I spotted the swift. It must have been a lone Scottish breeder or a Scandinavian migrant drifted to these islands. Yet it was alone and plainly detached from the wider southward movement of its kind, much of which occurred in late July.

House martin flight is beautiful and quick, and the separate strokes not easily countable, but in swifts you barely register wingbeats at all, each one swerving into the blur of the last. If an absence of straight lines defines nature, then swift flight is nature's apotheosis. My bird jinked left and right, again and again, repeating the twists maybe seven to eight times, as if there were invisible obstacles aloft and the bird must plot a tight route through all that free air.

I had to recall that with each bend of its path, some insect was also being snaffled by the bird's immense maw. A parent can take prey like this, one after the other, until an invertebrate ball, adhering as a bolus in its sublingual pouch, can number 1,000 items. Swift flight, then, is both precise and practical, but also purer than in any other bird and watching it feed here among martins was like seeing a wolf hunt among dogs. It was a joy to savour it one last time until next spring.
Mark Cocker

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In uncertain times, we seek a sense of belonging

It was heartening to read the words of the Labour MP Clive Lewis - they felt like a cool and level-headed salve amid the heat and fervour of public mourning (The republican voice should not be silenced, 17 September). It feels as if in moments of uncertainty our communities reach for the familiar, for a sense of belonging. Perhaps this sense of unity may be found by shifting our taxes and our time towards building a nation of equals, a reinvigorated democracy and an empowered citizenry. In essence, what we need now is a new social contract, where the same sense of respect and, dare I say it, love is afforded to struggling workers, isolated older people and children who rely on food banks to eat. Across the Commonwealth, people are struggling terribly. All the pageantry in the world cannot deflect from the need to incisively question the old ways of thinking.
April Cumming
Melbourne, Australia

● Clive Lewis misses the point about the monarchy. It is popular because it speaks to the irrational in us. That irrationality is all around us,

and is probably a significant way of coping with the world. We all get a kick out of the spectacle, the silliness and the sheer stupidity of it.
Ian d'Alton
Naas, County Kildare, Ireland

● Despite much of what Clive Lewis said being true, people in the UK enjoy the monarchy. I do myself, recognising it as an institution that has endured for about 1,500 years. It defines who we are as a nation, and for that reason it should remain. For those who don't support it, don't impose your ideals on the majority who want to retain it.
Colin Henshaw
Bowdon, Greater Manchester

● The suffocation of any public expression of dissent (or simply a different opinion), generally unchallenged by most of the mainstream media, has been deeply disturbing. I can recall being at school in the 1960s, a staid and conventional girls' grammar school, where there was a debating society. The topic of the abolition of the monarchy often featured and triggered a lively exchange, followed

by voting on the motion. I wonder if young people at school would be permitted to have that debate now.
Mavis Zutshi
Stroud, Gloucestershire

● Clive Lewis is right to speak out, but his article left me also with "bemusement followed by (more than) a touch of despair". I suspect that Lewis, like most MPs, views everything through a political lens and, as such, rails against key events of the last 70 years, such as privatisation of industries, including energy. He states how things should be run. Normal people, for whom politics comes around only every five years (or more often, if we were able to choose a prime minister) ask a different question: does it work?

As a general free-marketeer, I would still prefer a well-run nationalised industry to a badly run private one, but, as a child of the 1960s and 70s, my recollection is of strikes in such industries, with huge proportions of pay going towards bills, and bailiffs a silent threat.

If Brexit taught us anything, it was to beware those offering simple solutions for complex problems. The outpouring of feeling - and I do not disagree with Lewis on it - is surely evidence of something apolitical, which is perhaps why he struggles with it.
Dr Chris Howick
Chester

Gratitude for GP care at its finest

Regarding Dr Zara Aziz's article ('Being a GP is an almost impossible job to do well', 19 September), the way most GPs continue with their duties they way they do is beyond compare. I have had first-hand experience of this: I spoke to my elderly uncle's GP on Friday evening and he said that he would visit on Saturday, which he duly did. I witnessed GP care at its finest and cannot express how grateful I am for this care of a frail, elderly man with Alzheimer's and other issues. We need to value NHS and GP services far more.

June Roff
Tunbridge Wells, Kent

● When I was growing up in central Scotland in the 1950s, even though there were normal GP surgery opening times, our doctor was also on call 24/7. Now, my current GP practice, a large and busy city one, has only one full-time partner. The rest are part-time, and none are obliged to call on patients outside regular working hours. And while GPs may indeed work very hard, Dr Zara Aziz might consider herself lucky that she is working as one today rather than 70 years ago.
William Millar
Edinburgh

Corrections and clarifications

● It was the dean of Westminster who supported the archbishop of Canterbury's service at Westminster Hall on 14 September, not the dean of Windsor as an article said (Amid the pageantry, the Queen takes place in history, 15 September, p4 from p1).

● The Cullinan I diamond, which sits in the Sovereign's Sceptre, was mistakenly described as a 3,106-carat stone. It is 530.2 carats, having been cut from the 3,106-carat Cullinan diamond (Pomp and circumstance, 19 September, p7).

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A funeral that didn't happen as smoothly

The Queen died on 8 September and the country provided a full state funeral, with all its complex logistics, for her 11 days later. My father-in-law died on 19 August. It took 14 days just to get a death certificate from Birmingham City council to start planning, and his funeral will take place on 30 September - 42 days later.
David Lee
Staveley, Cumbria

● Sean Ingle hits the right note (Too many sports were timid after the Queen's death. They must learn from this, 19 September). My granddaughter asked her dad if her football match would be taking place on the Saturday morning after the Queen's death, and he said that it wouldn't. She asked why, because she thought it was only grassroots football that was affected and she played on Astroturf.
Stuart Waterworth
Tavistock, Devon

● I had no difficulty getting the Guardian yesterday (Letters, 19 September). My copy was delivered to my home just as the wall-to-wall coverage was starting on TV, which was a relief. Thank you for your balanced coverage of the period of mourning. Never was the Guardian more needed.
Matthew Ryder
St Neots, Cambridgeshire

● I set off at 10.30am yesterday for a long walk with my two whippets. Judging by how many people I saw out walking, running and cycling, there is hope for a republic yet.
Peter Thornton
Ramsbottom, Greater Manchester

● I did welcome the first chance in many years to cycle in peace and safety along the A5.
Bob Caldwell
Badby, Daventry



Diane Haigh

Architect who updated the Royal Festival Hall in line with the spirit of the original design

The Royal Festival Hall in London opened in 1951. After half a century of constant use, the building and its auditorium found themselves stranded in a lifeless setting, unloved by musicians and losing money. For an upgrading in 2005-07 to enable the RFH to flourish again, the spirit of the original conception needed to prevail over the literal preservation of the structure.

This shift in the attitude taken towards conservation was achieved by the architect Diane Haigh, who has died unexpectedly aged 73, and it led to a more widespread change in guidance.

At the time, the overriding consideration when working on old or listed buildings was conservation of the building fabric – an attitude that often inhibited the changes necessary for extending their useful life.

Di saw that more was needed if the RFH was to remain viable,

with its acoustics and access for a wider range of productions improved. The great sounding boards above the orchestra would have to be removed, the auditorium seat spacing increased, with carpets refurbished, shops and cafes opened by the river, and offices moved out to benefit the public lobbies. However, both English Heritage and the Twentieth Century Society objected to any change.

Seeking a way out of this impasse, Di researched the original scheme, interviewed its surviving authors and showed that the ideas behind the RFH's design at the time of the Festival of Britain – its purpose as a performance space – were just as important a consideration as the fabric. English Heritage accepted this argument and changed its guidance. The RFH's auditorium gained a new life and the South Bank was revitalised.

As a director of the RFH's house architects, Allies and Morrison, Di was not a backroom researcher. She was involved in every aspect of its upgrading – ensuring that the

intentions of the original architects were respected, down to the restoration of the colour palette.

Earlier, she had led the adaptation of Inigo Jones' Queen's House at Greenwich, a Grade I listed building and Scheduled Monument completed in 1635. There, the challenge was how to adapt the building to meet the requirements of the 1995 Disability Act. Di found a way of replacing an existing stair and inserting a new lift. So skilfully was this done that these and other changes – made in the face of stern opposition from English Heritage – in no way drew attention to themselves.

In 2000-01, she devised and implemented the successful strategy of converting Blackwell, a large house by MH Baillie Scott in the Lake District, into an art gallery. This drew on her experience when, from the early 1990s, she and her architect husband, William Fawcett, had restored five of Baillie Scott's Cambridge houses – about which she wrote an outstanding book, *Baillie Scott: The Artistic House* (1995), and curated a travelling exhibition.

Born in Kendal, Cumbria (then in Westmorland), Di was the daughter of Joan (nee Law) and Donald Haigh, an architect. After Donald's early death, Joan continued as manager of his Lake District practice with an architect partner.

The auditorium of the RFH in London after its renovation in 2005 by Haigh, below, of the architects Allies and Morrison. Below right, Queen's House, Greenwich, with the staircase that was part of her conservation scheme

DENNIS GILBERT/VIEW/ALLIES AND MORRISON



Shops and cafes were opened by the river and offices moved out to benefit the public lobbies

From Kendal high school Di went to Newnham College, Cambridge, where she graduated in architecture in 1971, before moving to Darwin College for her postgraduate diploma. It was at Cambridge that she met William, whom she married in 1977 and with whom she practised for many years. Their work was mainly on smaller projects, including their own exemplary low-energy house.

She assisted on research projects on Essex and Hampshire schools before moving to Hong Kong in 1982 to teach at the university.

Returning to Cambridge in 1985 she taught postgraduate studios – groups of students working on design projects – and, later, undergraduate studios. Working for Freeland Rees Roberts, she was also project architect (1986-90) for the restoration and adaptation as a hospice of Thorpe Hall, a fine 1650s country house near Peterborough.

Latterly, she was, for more than two decades (1995-2016), director of studies in architecture at Trinity Hall – supervising students during her weekends in Cambridge, after a working week in London.

In 2007, after being with Allies and Morrison for 11 years, Di was appointed director of architecture and design review at the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE). There, rather than being involved in the process of design, she became responsible for running review panels on significant projects in the planning system.

These included the sports facilities at the London Olympics, buildings for Crossrail and ecotowns. It was a huge programme and Di used the design review process to hold commissioning bodies to account on quality. She believed that design impacts everyone's lives and that this is a responsibility that all involved must uphold. Under her leadership, CABE's review process became more transparent.

In 2011, following her return to Allies and Morrison, she co-edited *The Fabric of Place*, an exploration of how places work and of what design can contribute to their further evolution. The book is now widely used as a primer on architecture and planning courses.

From 2014 onwards, in Cambridge, she led design review in the expanding city. She was cheerful and energetic but, over the years, her impaired mobility (to which she never alluded) became increasingly apparent. But her ability to engage with people remained and, during the Covid-19 lockdown, she ran a programme of creative online studios on topics ranging from opera to poetry.

She is survived by William, their children, Eleanor and Francis, both architects, and three grandchildren.

Peter Carolin

Diane Haigh, architect, born 2 May 1949; died 31 July 2022

Other lives



Eddie Adams

Community activist devoted to campaigns to improve life for his neighbours in North Kensington
In the late 1950s a deep strain of community activism took root in North Kensington, west London. Many of the grassroots campaigns there over the next six decades – including notable battles against racism and for better housing – could be mapped through the life of Eddie Adams, who has died aged 85.

Eddie, whom I first met while doing research for a TV documentary, was born in London, the son of an Italian mother, Maria Agostinelli. She died when he was young and he was adopted by Sheila Knubley, a housewife, and Samuel Adams, an electrician. North Kensington and Notting Hill, where his new family lived, were then synonymous with poverty and slum housing, and he had to sleep on a coat on the floor as a child.

The 1958 Notting Hill race riots brought a new infamy to the area. The far right, including Britain's wartime fascist leader Sir Oswald Mosley, descended on the district. Eddie, a “roughneck” teddy boy with a quiff, heard Mosley speak – and spent the rest of his life opposing the bigotry he promoted.

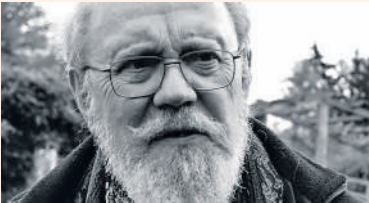
Eddie joined the Young Communist League and became a London Recruit: one of the men and women who used the protection that their white skins afforded to carry out secret missions against apartheid South Africa. In 1969 he detonated

propaganda leaflet bombs in Cape Town and set off a pre-recorded message through a loudspeaker in a crowded railway station. In 1970, he returned for a second mission.

In North Kensington his activism was usually more prosaic: campaigning for better public housing, more open spaces and improved amenities. For years he worked at the North Kensington Law Centre. His radicalism extended to his time as an electrician, and as a shop steward for the Electrical Trades Union (ETU).

Eddie and his wife, June Laurence-Edmonds, whom he married in 1970, made a dynamic campaigning team. She died in 2019. By then, much of his time was spent gathering the memories of the area's older residents and publishing local history books.

He is survived by his son, Max, and daughter, Rosie, and two grandchildren, Marcel and Kayla.
Mark Olden



Roger Hennessey

Teacher at the Royal grammar school, Newcastle, and later a schools inspector specialising in history
My father, Roger Hennessey, who has died aged 84, was an inspirational teacher at the Royal grammar school, Newcastle upon Tyne, from 1962 to 1973, and an effective head of the school's economics department.

After the Royal grammar school, Roger became an HMI – a schools inspector – from 1973 until his retirement in 1992, latterly serving as the staff inspector of history.

Roger was born in Hammer-smith, west London. He was the son of a Royal Navy officer, Sydney, a commanding officer on HMS Scott during D-day. An only child, Roger grew up with his mother, Winifred

(nee Palmer), when his father was away at sea. After attending Epsom college, Surrey, and doing national service with the Army Catering Corps, Roger studied history at Downing College, Cambridge, specialising in the British economy from 1870 to 1940.

He graduated in 1960, completed a PGCE in 1961, and the following year joined the RGS, where he was tasked with establishing an economics department. He also wrote a number of secondary school textbooks for the Batsford Past-Into-Present Series, including Transport (1966), Factories (1969) and Railways (1973).

In 1963 Roger married Penelope Coningham, my mother. Although my parents divorced in 1991, they maintained an affection for each other and a shared interest in their children and grandchildren. In 1995 Roger married Jennifer Worsfold.

In retirement he published more books, including Worlds Without End (1999) and Atlantic: The Well-Beloved Engine (2002).

Jennifer was diagnosed with dementia in the early 2000s and died in 2016. Roger is survived by his children, Emma, Jasper and me, and four grandchildren.

Justin Hennessey

Tim Feasey

Artist whose intense paintings and drawings combined abstract and representational forms
My friend the artist Tim Feasey, who has died suddenly aged 60, made intense paintings, prints and drawings, employing exuberant colour and monotone rendering.

He was always reluctant to explain his work, but it combined abstract and representational forms, capturing moments in time



and passages of personal history. In the 1990s Tim was arts co-ordinator at the Art House in Wakefield, a charitable organisation that brought disabled and able-bodied professional and amateur artists together through exhibitions and public art projects. Tim was keen to break down barriers between people, promoting integration.

He moved on to become director of visual arts at the Attenborough Arts Centre at the University of Leicester in the 2000s. There he organised a wide variety of exhibitions and events promoting the cultural profile of the university as well as of the city of Leicester.

Tim spent most of his life in the Midlands and north of England. He was born in Leicester, the son of Jeanne (nee Dewdney), a teacher, and Don, a writer and psychotherapist, and went to Morecambe high school.

He gained a fine art degree in the early 80s from Humberside College of Higher Education and later an MA in fine art at Nottingham Polytechnic, which was where he and I met. In the course of his studies he twice undertook interviews with the painter Howard Hodgkin, telling me he was most amused by their flirtatious exchanges.

After graduating from Nottingham in 1990, Tim joined the Art House. Running alongside this role, and then his work at the Attenborough Arts Centre, he continued to paint. He had solo shows at the Brahm Gallery in Leeds, the Wakefield Art Gallery, the Atrium Gallery in Derby, and Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, and regularly showed at the Wirksworth arts festival.

Tim was keen to enable people to experience his work directly and was not a fan of printed reproductions. His outward confidence masked a fragile and sensitive inner self, the side he channelled so effectively into his art and close friendships.

He is survived by two brothers, Jon and Simon.

Rodger Brown

theatre in Bath in Dearest Friend, based on the letters of Clara and Robert Schumann. She was living in Bradford on Avon and I began to write small-scale recital pieces for her, most of which linked music and the spoken word. These were a great success locally and we became close friends.

Sybil bore a striking resemblance to Sybil Thorndike, and twice played her aunt's most famous part – Bernard Shaw's Saint Joan. Throughout her career and into old age she remained a standard bearer for stage speech that is clear, flowing, vibrant and expressive.

Sybil's husband died in 2004. She is survived by three nieces and two nephews, and their children and grandchildren.

Megan Jones

Birthdays

Prof Jim Al-Khalili, physicist, author and broadcaster, 60; **Lesley-Anne Alexander**, former chief executive, Royal National Institute of Blind People, 63; **Maureen Baker**, former chair, Royal College of General Practitioners, 64; **Dale Chihuly**, glass sculptor, 81; **Alannah Currie**, musician and artist, 65; **Andrew Davies**, screenwriter, 86; **Lord (Geoffrey) Dear**, former HM inspector of constabulary, 85; **Laura Dekker**, sailor, 27; **Caroline Flint**, former Labour MP and minister, 61; **Douglas Gordon**, artist, 56; **Lee Hall**, playwright, 56; **John Harle**, saxophonist, 66; **Gen Sir Garry Johnson**, former commander-in-chief of Allied Forces Northern Europe, 85; **Mark Lever**, former chief executive, National Autistic Society, 62; **Sophia Loren**, actor, 88; **Prof David Marquand**, academic and former Labour MP, 88; **George RR Martin**, novelist and screenwriter, 74; **Jo Pavey**, runner, 49; **Anna Pavord**, gardening writer, 82; **Maggie Rae**, lawyer and former chair, Fabian Society, 73; **José Rivero**, golfer, 67.

Letter

Judith Durham

The 20 years that I spent as UK manager for Judith Durham (obituary, 9 August) were the best of my life. On her Diamond Tour she sang in the Royal Festival Hall, London, on her 60th birthday, and her fans loved it. The politician Tony Benn invited us to go and see him: he and Judith drank tea and signed each other's books.

She was in awe of the voice of Vera Lynn, and with Vera's daughter I fixed up a telephone call between them. Once we had got through Vera's call-screening device, the two spoke for 20 minutes – a precious memory.
Shelley Bovey

Announcements

Deaths

FLOWER, Dr Tony, writer, social reformer, Chair of the Young Foundation. Director and Chair of numerous charitable and voluntary organisations. Eclectic collector and maker of "interesting" things, died peacefully at his home in Faversham on 1 September 2022 aged 71. Greatly missed by family and friends.

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Sybil Mitchell

Actor who built a successful career and twice played the role made famous by her aunt Sybil Thorndike
My friend Sybil Mitchell, who has died aged 94, was an actor under the stage name Sybil Ewbank, and a member of the theatrical Thorndike family.

Sybil was born in Weymouth, Dorset, but spent her early years in Portsmouth, Hampshire, where her father, Cdr Maurice Ewbank,

was in charge of Royal Navy vocational training. Her mother was Eileen Thorndike, the sister of the celebrated actor Dame Sybil Thorndike, and herself both an actor and teacher. Of the four Ewbank children, both Sybil and her sister Elizabeth became actors.

The family settled in London and, after Kensington high school, Sybil trained at the Central School of Speech and Drama. Her first professional job was in The Cherry Orchard at the Arts theatre.

Next came pantomime at Cromer, Norfolk, and in 1949 a summer season of rep with the Regency Players at Aberystwyth. Richard Baker and Hugh Lloyd were among her fellow players.

The 1950s saw Sybil established as a leading rep actor in theatres

up and down the UK. In 1958 she was invited to play Lady Macbeth at Chesterfield, Derbyshire, in a company that included Ronald Harwood as Banquo and a young Diana Rigg. At one curtain-call, Sybil and Harwood had to hold up the actor playing Macbeth; he had cut himself in the fight scene and was fainting at the sight of blood.

In 1964 she provided professional backing to a Cambridge University tour of apartheid South Africa. This included taking Shakespeare to the black townships, including Soweto. She also worked at the Donovan Maule theatre in Nairobi, Kenya, where she lived for nine years, having married Leonard Mitchell, a coffee-grower, in 1970.

I first met Sybil in 2002, when she was appearing at the Rondo

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- 1 After mistake on circuit, pressure for F1 starter (6)
- 5 Meat from sheep I finished first (8)
- 9 Indigo for a chess computer (4,4)
- 10 Rural cottage is this writer's bolthole? (6)
- 11 Care to relax, after putting energy into a comic song (7,5)
- 13 For her, partner (not male) not available (4)
- 14 Upset voter stumbles against ballot box (8)
- 17 Reduce studies in first chapter? (8)
- 18 One goes round castle, treading nothing into carpet (4)
- 20 What did you say, you tosser? (5,2,5)
- 23 Tore off from opera, back at top speed to dance (6)
- 24 Partnership lacking say in loyalty (8)
- 25 Without imagination, supermarket replaces legend's recipe (8)
- 26 Deer turns over something with one foot (6)

- 2** In the country I am an unknown animal (4)
- 3** Random bloke caught out over pitfall (9)
- 4** Send fruitlessly from here to post in this box (6)
- 5** Appoint entirely unsatisfactory diplomat (15)
- 6** Glittering, like part of American flag (8)
- 7** Trainspotter losing head – it's like a sieve (5)
- 8** Went to see a fellow motoring enthusiast to give a bit of a hand (10)
- 12** Bigoted, enjoying the bilingual harangue (10)
- 15** I mark the moment the paper is on the carpet – picked up quietly (4-5)
- 16** Rare single; not running in between (8)
- 19** Bat showing determination on old wicket (6)
- 21** Be out of sleeping bag? That's odd (5)
- 22** Small incision in tail (4)